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# BULGARIA A SHORT TOURIST GUIDE

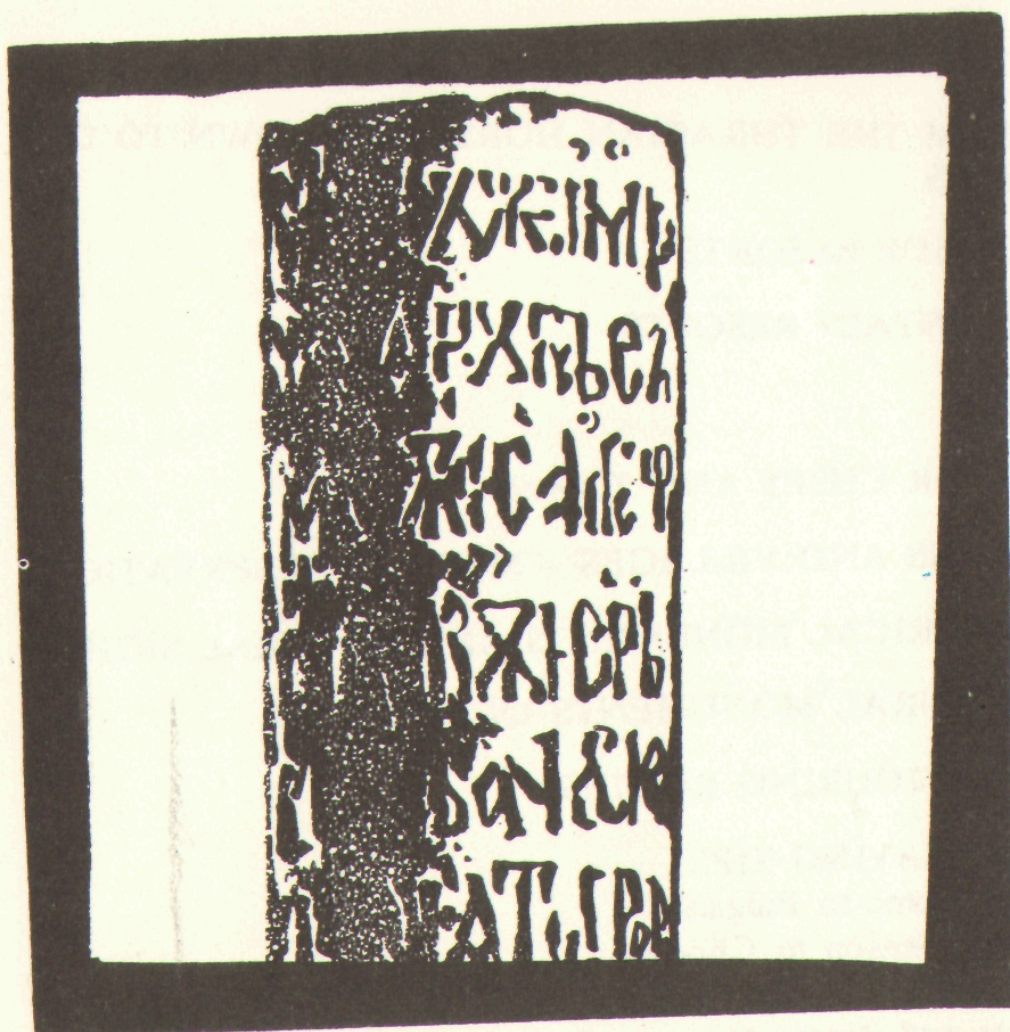
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MEET BULGARIA

*'If Europe still has any tourist reserves,  
Bulgaria is the first of them.'*

*Professor Bernecker, Director of  
the Institute on Tourism, Austria.*

So this year you have decided to spend your annual holiday in Bulgaria. That's fine! You are very welcome, and we hope you'll come again next year!

*The People's Republic of Bulgaria* is a small state in the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula between 41° and 44° latitude North and 22° and 28° longitude East. It occupies an area of 111,000 square kilometres and has a population of 8,730,000. Bulgaria borders to the north on the Socialist Republic of Romania (the boundary line runs along the Danube River and then over land), to the west – on the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia, to the south – on Greece and Turkey, and to the east – on the Black Sea.

The relief of the country is a happy combination of sea coast, picturesque mountains and verdant plains. The predomi-



nant brown colour on your map gives the impression that it is a purely mountainous country, although this is not so, despite the fact that in Bulgaria there are no fewer than sixteen mountain massifs. We must first of all mention the Balkan Range, which was called Hemus in ancient times. This range, the longest in the country (555 km) cuts it into two halves as it runs from west to east and has given its name to the whole peninsula. It is the living history of Bulgaria – because in its progressive settlements and in its forests the people have fought many battles for their freedom. Fifteen of the peaks of the Balkan Range rise above

2,000 m, and the highest of them Mount Botev, is 2,376 m high. The highest mountains in Bulgaria (and in the whole Balkan Peninsula) are the Rila Mountains (with Mount Moussala – 2,925 m) and then come the Pirin Mountains with Mount Vihren – 2,915 m. East of the Pirin Mountains extends like a choppy sea the massif of the Rhodopes (with Mount Big Perelik – 2,192 m). From among the other mountains we must mention the Sredna Gora (Central Mountains), running parallel to the Balkan Range (the two ranges enclosing the well-known Valley of Roses); Mount Vitosha – near the capital, Sofia; the Strandja Mountains (in south-eastern Bulgaria), Belassitsa, Ossogovo (in the southwestern part of the country), etc.

Of course, side by side with the brown patches on the map of Bulgaria there are also green ones. They stand for our *plains, lowlands and valleys*. The most important ones are: the Danubian Plain (between the Danube and the Balkan Range) and Dobroudja – two granaries of Bulgaria; the Thracian Plain (in southern Bulgaria), which got its name from the Thracians who inhabited it in antiquity and which is renowned today for its vineyards, vegetable gardens and tobacco plantations; the Valley of Roses, which we have already mentioned; the Kyustendil Plain – Bulgaria's orchard, etc.

There are also many *rivers* in Bulgaria, but most of them are





seasonal and carry little water most of the time. The largest river, excluding the Danube, is the Maritsa. It springs from the Rila Mountains, crosses the Thracian Plain, and flows into the Aegean Sea. The rivers Toundja and Arda are tributaries of the Maritsa. The Strouma and Mesta also flow into the Aegean. Among the Bulgarian tributaries of the Danube the most important are the Isker, the Ogosta and the Yantra, and the rivers Kamchiya and Ropotamo flow into the Black Sea.

Since the lakes on the Danube bank were drained (only Sreburna Lake was left as a reservation) Bulgaria now has three kinds of lakes: coastal, in the limestone mountains and Alpine. The largest coastal lakes are that of Blatnitsa and of Shabla, the Varna and Gebedjé and the Atanassovsko. The most important among those in limestone rocks is Rabisha Lake, and the high-mountain lakes are mainly in the Rila and Pirin Mountains (in the Rila Mountains alone there are 189 corrie lakes and in the Pirin Mountains 176).

But Bulgaria's water economy does not rely solely on nature's efforts. Big dams have been built in the years of people's rule. Filled with millions of cubic metres of water, they serve both as sources of electrical power and for irrigation and water supply, for fisheries, for the practice of aquatic sports, etc. On Bulgaria's map artificial water basins have made their appearance, such as the Isker Dam, those of Stouden Kladenets, Batak, Alexander Stamboliiski, Georgi Dimitrov, Kalin, etc. — some 20 in number so far, with still more under construction.

Of course, Bulgaria is fortunate that her territory borders to the north on the Danube and to the east on the Black Sea. These are 470 and 378 km of water courses — the first one linking the country with the greater part of Europe, and the second — with all maritime states in the world.

But perhaps we have had enough of geography. Let us now give you a brief outline of Bulgaria's history.



FROM  
THE THRACIAN  
HORSEMEN DOWN  
TO OUR OWN TIMES

Many tribes and people have travelled across the territory of Bulgaria through the ages and each of them has left behind something of its material culture. An exhibition of Bulgarian history a few years ago in Paris provoked great interest there and elsewhere.

We have reliable data that the Bulgarian lands were inhabited by man as early as the Musterian Age, i.e. some 100,000 years ago. Evidence of this are the stone implements found in the Bacho Kiro Cave near the Dryanovo Monastery; they are the earliest cultural remains in the Balkan Peninsula.

The first cultured tribes came to Bulgaria's lands in the second millennium B.C. They were the *Thracians* who, at first scattered, in the 5th century B.C. set up a mighty state under the guidance of the Odryssae tribe. In the field of arts and crafts the Thracians borrowed from the culture of the Greeks (Greek colonies along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast were set up as early as the 7th century B.C.), but this did not stop them creating an original and very rich Thracian culture of their own.

*Roman influence* in the Balkan Peninsula started to spread after the 2nd century B.C. The foundations of more than 20 Roman towns which have been excavated in present-day Bulgaria reveal advanced constructional skills. This is particularly true of those centres on the right-hand bank of the Danube, which best reveal the domination of Rome during the 1st-6th centuries A.D.

The first Bulgarian state, however, was established by two ethnical groups: *Slavs and Proto-Bulgarians*. The Slav tribes, or the so-called eastern group, came here in the 5th and 6th centuries. One century later, seven of them united and, in the area between the Danube and the Balkan Range, laid the foundations of an alliance, while preserving at the same time their patriarchal and communal relations. It was these Slavs that the Proto-Bulgarians of Asparouh came upon on their way from Southern Bessarabia, and it was together with them that they laid the foundations of the First Bulgarian State. This act took place in the year 681, when a peace treaty with the Byzantine Emperor Constantine IV Pogonatus recognized its existence.

*The First Bulgarian State (681-1018)* developed, briefly, as follows: at the time of Khan Kroum (803-814) the country was consolidated and expanded its boundaries; his successor Omourtag (814-831) concluded a 30-year peace treaty with Byzantium and devoted himself to construction. In 865, under Prince Boris I, Bulgarians and Slavs adopted the Christian religion – an act of tremendous significance for the further development of the state. Cyril and Methodius evolved the Bulgarian alphabet, which became the basis of all Slavonic letters. Under Simeon (893-927) – the son of Boris I – Bulgarian culture enjoyed its 'golden age'. After that came a period of

decline and Bulgaria fell under Byzantine rule (1018-1185). In the same period the well-known social movement of Bogomilism made its appearance and later passed on to Italy and to France.

*The Second Bulgarian State* comprises the period of 1185 to 1396. The Bulgarians liberated themselves from Byzantine rule in 1185 as a result of a people's uprising, led by the brothers Assen and Peter. Under Kaloyan (1197-1207) and Ivan Assen II (1218-1241) Bulgaria was the strongest state in South-eastern Europe and her frontiers were washed by three seas – the Black Sea, the Aegean and the Adriatic. After that, cruel internecine struggles flared up and 14 kings reigned in rapid succession. This undermined the foundations of the state and facilitated the victory of the Ottoman Turks, who invaded the Peninsula at the end of the 13th and the beginning of the 14th century. In 1396 all Bulgaria fell under Turkish domination.



Ottoman rule lasted nearly five centuries, impeding the development of the country. The Bulgarian people several times rose up against the oppressors, but their struggles were all drowned in blood. The period of Bulgaria's National Revival, which set in during the 18th century, coincided with the stepping up of the national-liberation struggle. The monk Paissi of Hilendar is considered the forefather of the Bulgarian National Revival; in 1762 he wrote a Slav-Bulgarian History, which played an exceedingly important role in awakening the Bulgarian people's national feeling. In the struggle for national liberation the figures of Georgi Rakovski, Lyuben Karavelov, Vassil Levski, Hristo Botev, etc., stand out. After the brutal crushing of the April 1876 Uprising, Russia declared war on Turkey and this war brought the freedom of the Bulgarian peo-



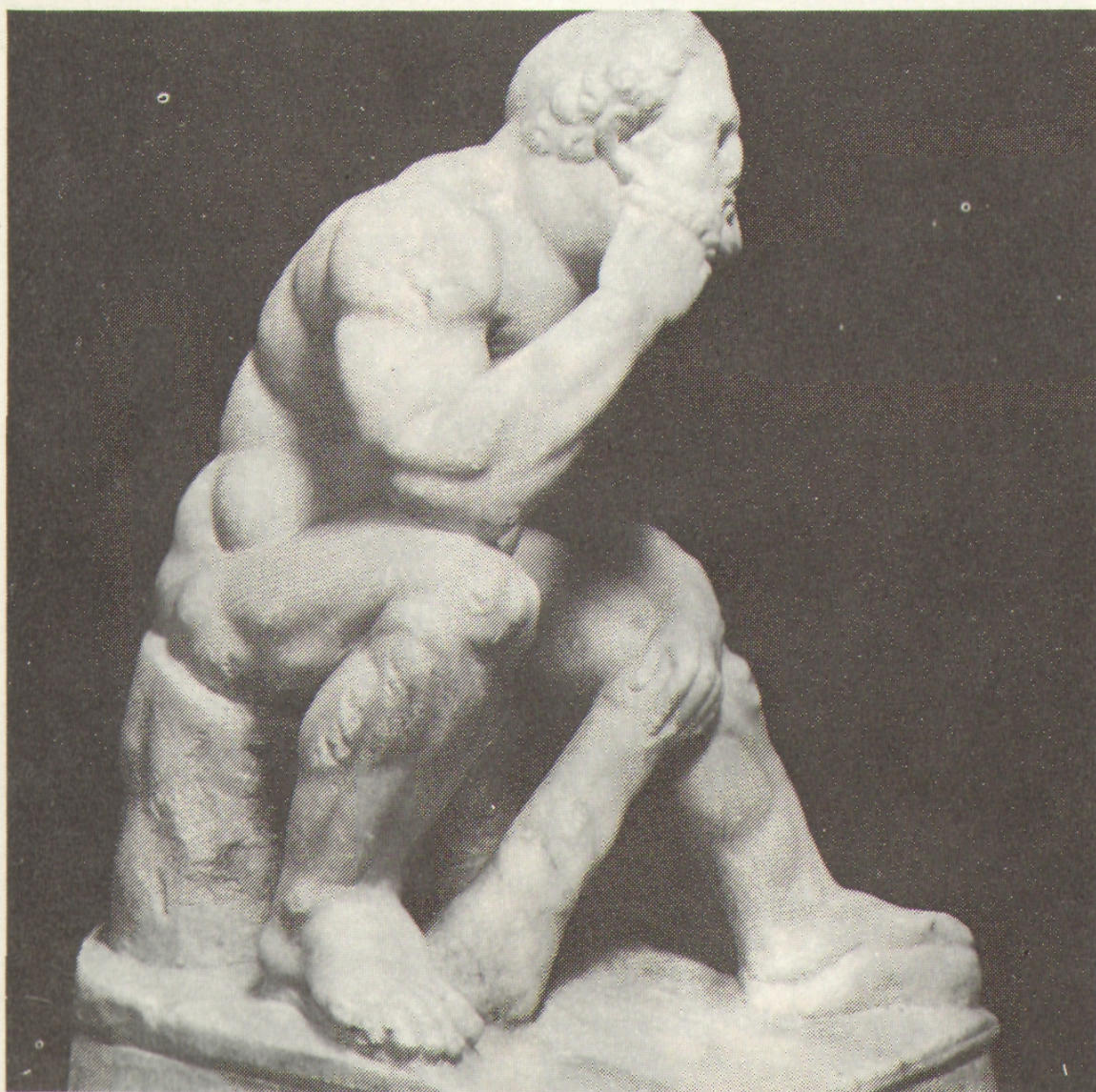
ple. With the San Stefano treaty between Russia and Turkey on March 3, 1878, Bulgaria became a free state.

*The Third Bulgarian State* comprises a brief historical period of a little more than five decades, but very important developments took place in the country in that time. At the end of the 19th century Bulgaria embarked on the capitalist road of development. A socialist movement made its appearance in the country, and the Bulgarian Communist Party and the Agrarian Party were founded. In the period between 1912 and 1918 Bulgaria took part in the Balkan Wars and in the First World War. After the legislative elections in 1920, an agrarian government came to power headed by Alexander Stamboliiski. But his rule did not last long. On June 9, 1923 a military fascist coup



was perpetrated. In September 1923, under the leadership of the Communist Party, the first anti-fascist uprising in the world broke out in the country. It was defeated, however, and more than 30,000 loyal sons and daughters of the people were killed by the fascists. The period between 1924 and 1941 was marked by acute political struggles. The king, who had set up a personal dictatorship, in 1941 gave his consent for the nazi forces to invade the country. The armed struggle which was waged from 1941 to 1944 by the Bulgarian people under the leadership of the Bulgarian Communist Party was crowned with the people's victory of September 9, 1944, thanks to the decisive assistance of the Soviet Army, which was victoriously marching westward. After a referendum, held in 1946, Bulgaria was proclaimed a *People's Republic*.

A new Constitution was adopted by a referendum on May 16, 1971, replacing that of 1947. According to the new constitu-



tion, the People's Republic of Bulgaria is a socialist state of the working people of town and country. The Bulgarian Communist Party is the leading force in the country. In the People's Republic of Bulgaria power stems from the people and belongs to the people. Every Bulgarian citizen over the age of 18 has the right to elect and to be elected. The supreme representative body of state power is the National Assembly which is constituted for



a period of four years. It issues laws, adopts the state budget, approves the economic plans, approves and releases the government, the Supreme Court and the Chief Public Prosecutor. The State Council is a supreme permanent operative organ of the National Assembly, uniting the legislative and executive power in the state, controlling the fulfilment of the decisions of the National Assembly, the activity of the Council of Ministers and other state bodies. It consists of a president, vice-presidents and members – national representatives. The local people's councils are also elective organs of state power. In the country there are 28 districts, in which power is vested in the district people's councils. The basic administrative unit in Bulgaria is the municipality, headed by a municipal (town or village) people's council. The highest executive organ of state government is the Council of Ministers.

In Bulgaria there are two political parties: the *Bulgarian Communist Party* (BCP) – with a membership of 700,000 – the universally acknowledged leading force in the country, and the *Bulgarian Agrarian Party* (BAP) – with a membership of 120,000. The largest mass political organization is the *Fatherland Front*. Besides it, there are the *trade unions*, the *Dimitrov Young Communist League*, as well as women's, sports and other organizations,

*Economically* Bulgaria is an industrial and agricultural country with a highly developed industry and a streamlined system of cooperative farming. Hundreds of plants have been built in the various towns. Particularly great attention is devoted to engineering and to the chemical industry products of the ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, to power production, to the light and food and beverage industries.

Bulgaria is the second country in the world which, after the

USSR, has radically resolved the agrarian problem. More than 99.5 per cent of the arable land belongs to the socialist sector.

By 1959 3,290 cooperative farms had been set up. When the agro-industrial complexes were set up in 1970, their number became 170 with between 20,000 and 40,000 ha of land each. They have at their disposal 93,500 tractors (expressed as 15 h.p. units), more than 17,000 combine harvesters and many other machines.

Unlike the past, when Bulgaria sold nothing but agricultural produce on the international markets, and in limited quantities at that, Bulgaria today exports machinery and equipment, chemicals and medicines, ships, complete plants and factories and products of the food and beverage industry. The number of the countries with which our state trades today is over 100.

In the *cultural field* Bulgaria has traditions going back 1,300 years. The Bulgarians knew how to read and write when many

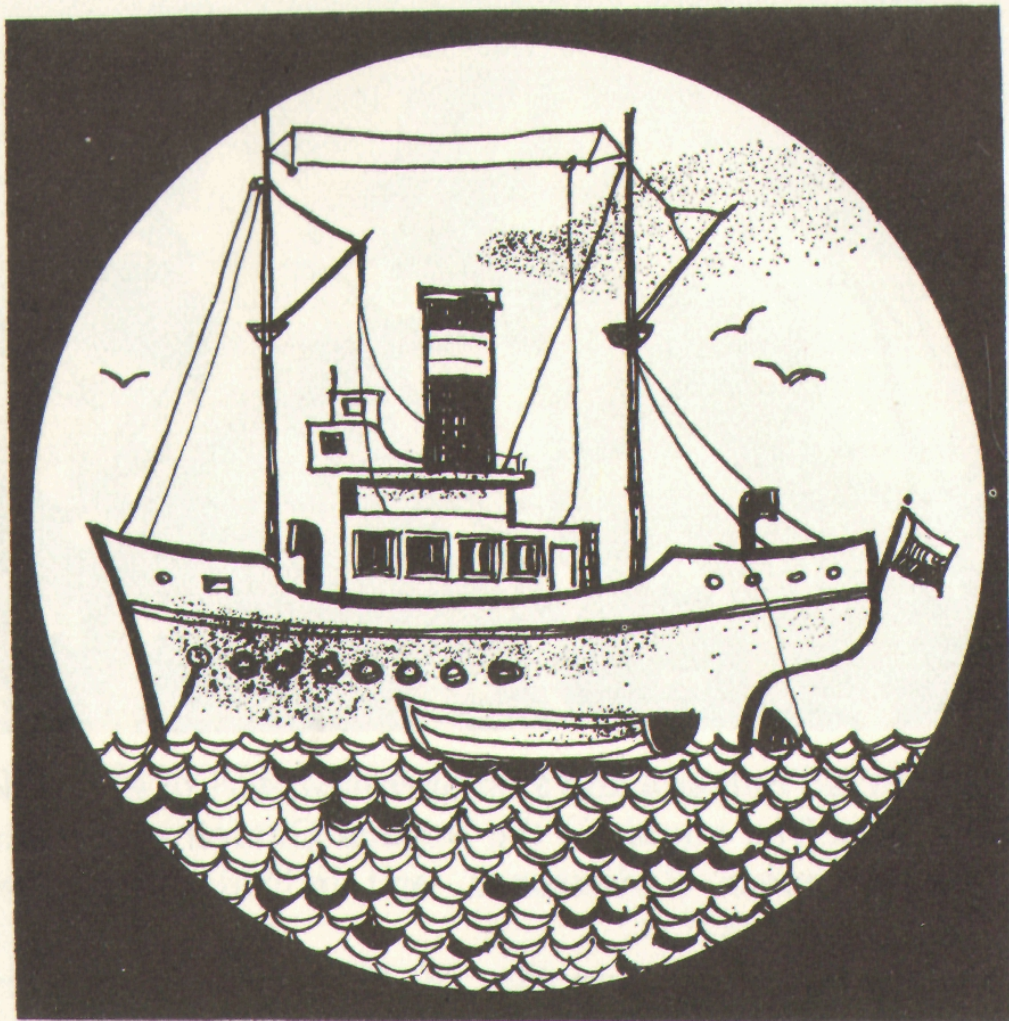


nations did not yet have an organized state of their own. And notwithstanding their being twice under foreign domination, the Bulgarian people have accumulated a considerable cultural treasurestore. The ruins of the old Bulgarian capitals of Pliska, Preslav and Veliko Turnovo testify to a tremendous construction drive, an original architecture and arts and crafts. As early as King Simeon's rule (9th-10th century), several schools



existed in old Bulgaria and a number of writers of great talent for those days. The murals in the Boyana Church were precursors of the European Renaissance, and individual art developed through the ages.

In the People's Republic of Bulgaria *medical care and education* are free. Primary education is compulsory, and secondary education is due to become compulsory shortly, too. For the proportionate number of university students Bulgaria holds one of the foremost places in the world, and a great percentage of the university students receive state grants. *Establishments of higher learning* in various special fields of science have been opened not only in Sofia, but in a number of provincial towns, too: Plovdiv, Varna, Roussé, Bourgas, Shoumen, Gabrovo, Blagoevgrad, Turnovo and Svishtov. Side by side with the Bulgarian students, young people from many other countries and continents are receiving their training there. In the country there is one academy of science with scores of institutes; fiction, scientific and technical books by Bulgarian and foreign authors are published in thousands of copies; there are 4,000 public libraries, many library clubs and houses of culture. Thirty-five theatres and six opera houses cater for thousands of spectators every day. Bulgarian singers, instrumentalists and ballet dancers reap successes on the world stages, the works of the Bulgarian film industry bring awards from leading festivals, Bulgaria's architects have won many competitions abroad. The people's amateur art activities are enjoying an unprecedented upswing. At the present time there are more than 15,000 folklore, song and dance and drama ensembles. Noteworthy are also the successes of Bulgarian sportsmen, especially in wrestling, modern gymnastics, weightlifting, shooting and football.



SEASIDE RESORTS

For many foreigners Bulgaria means scarcely more than her Black Sea coast. They may be right, though not quite, but let us not argue the point. What is more important is that this Black Sea coast was 'discovered' not very long ago by the Bulgarians themselves.

But first of all, let us say a few words about the Black Sea. It is one of the medium-sized seas – with a maximum length of 1,130 km, width of 611 km, and an area of 413,488 sq km. The salinity of its water is low (18 per thousand), but that is why its transparency is high – up to 16-20 m – at an average depth of 1,690 m. The temperature of the water in the summer months averages 23°C.

The Bulgarian stretch of the Black Sea coastline (378 km) is less indented than the eastern and southern parts, but boasts a more picturesque shore. The woody, softly descending slopes of the Balkan Range and the Strandja Mountains, the vineyards and orchards, as well as the other types of vegetation create such an abundance of verdure that many people rightly call this part of the country the Bulgarian Riviera. Almost along the entire coastline there is an unbroken strip of fine sand, and the sea is clean and shallow. We could not possibly imagine our seaside resorts – from the old and romantic fishermen's settlements to the most modern resort complexes – without this greenery, without this sand and without this sea. Neither could we imagine them without their abundance of fruit, grapes and sparkling white wines.

But let us introduce you in a few words to some of the most important Bulgarian Black Sea resorts, starting out in the north.



**ALBENA**

The most recently opened resort on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast is situated in a calm bay north of the Batova River. It welcomed its first guests in 1969. There are currently 35 1st-class hotels with some 10,000 beds, a camping site with 1,500 places and restaurants and night clubs for 10,000. The places of entertainment are situated aside from the hotels to ensure peace and quiet for the holidaymakers.

The water is clear and warm and the seabed is even, without holes and whirlpools.

For lovers of *sport* there are many volleyball, basketball and tennis courts, golf links, croquet pitches, bowling alleys, horses, bicycles, a sailing club and go-carts.

Next to Kardam Hotel there is a tailor's shop for men's and women's clothes, a shoemaker's and watchmaker's shop and dry-cleaning and clothes pressing shop. At the entrance to the resort is the post office which is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The resort is some 30 km from Varna. A regular bus service links it with Varna, Zlatni Pyassatsi, Drouzhba, Toblukhin and Balchik. A six-seater cutter makes regular trips to Balchik, Kavarna and Kaliakra.

The taxi stand is next to Slavyanka Hotel.

Exhibitions of works of leading Bulgarian painters, cartoonists and graphic artists are organized in the hotel lobbies.

A competition for 'Miss Albena' and 'Miss Black Sea' is organized here in the months of July and August.

At the resort there are several places of entertainment, with interesting floor shows and very good cooking.

The *Zlaten Klas* Tavern next to Orlov Hotel is open from 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.



*Dobroudja Tavern* – in the trade centre of the resort. Open from 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

*Ribarska Hizha Restaurant* in the eastern part of the resort, by the sea. A variety of fish dishes are served.

The *Old House Restaurant* – in national Bulgarian style. A folk-instrument orchestra. Open from 6.00 p.m. to 12.00 p.m.

*Gorski Tsar Night Club*. Every night a varied concert programme. Situated in the western part of the resort and open from 9.00 p.m. to 4.00 a.m.

*Arabella Night Club*, in the eastern part of the resort, next to the beach. Open from 9.00 p.m. to 4.00 a.m.

*Batova Picnic* – 18 km away from the resort; delicious dishes served and a varied floor show. Open from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

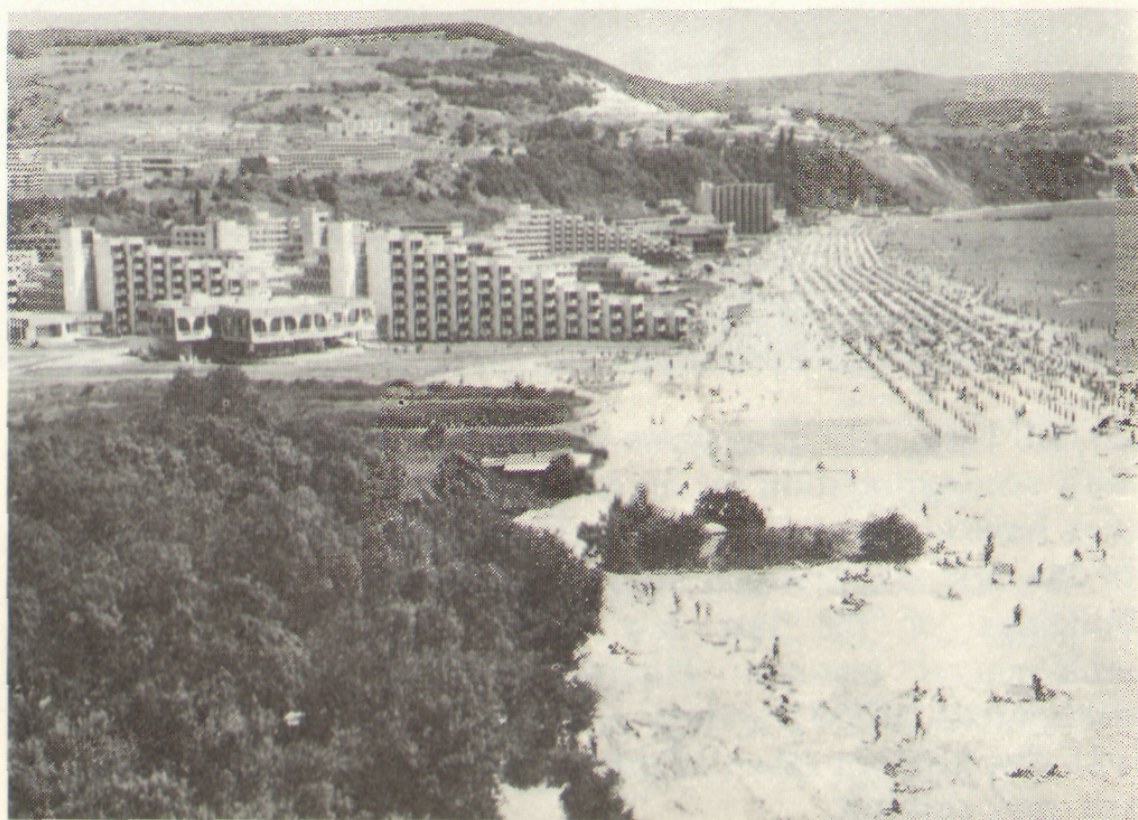
*Robinson* – a place of entertainment near the town of Balchik. Interesting programme every day from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

In the shopping centre of the resort there is a wide range of leather, fur and ceramic articles, folk-style fabrics, perfumery, shoes, bathing suits and souvenirs. The grocery stores, the greengrocers and fruiterers, as well as the flower shops, are open from 9.00 to 12.00 a.m. and from 4.00 to 9.00 p.m.

The *health clinic* of the resort is next to Bratislava Hotel; tel. 20-25, 23-06. There is a pharmacy at Orlov Hotel.

*Currency exchange* – at Dorostol Hotel and in the shopping centre, tel. 23-71.

The *bureau of the National Tourist Information Centre* is in Bratislava Hotel, tel. 21-50.



## ZLATNI PYASSATSI

One of the first resort complexes built on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, it is situated 17 km north of Varna to which it is connected by a modern motorway (part of the E-95 International Highway leading from Romania to Turkey). The name of the resort was given it by its beach – an almost 4 km long strip of sand over 100 metres wide. It lies on the same latitude as the well-known French and Italian Mediterranean resorts. Its climate is mild and warm. The mean temperature in July is 22°C, and the temperature of the water from June to September never falls below 20°C.

At the complex there are more than 80 modern hotels with

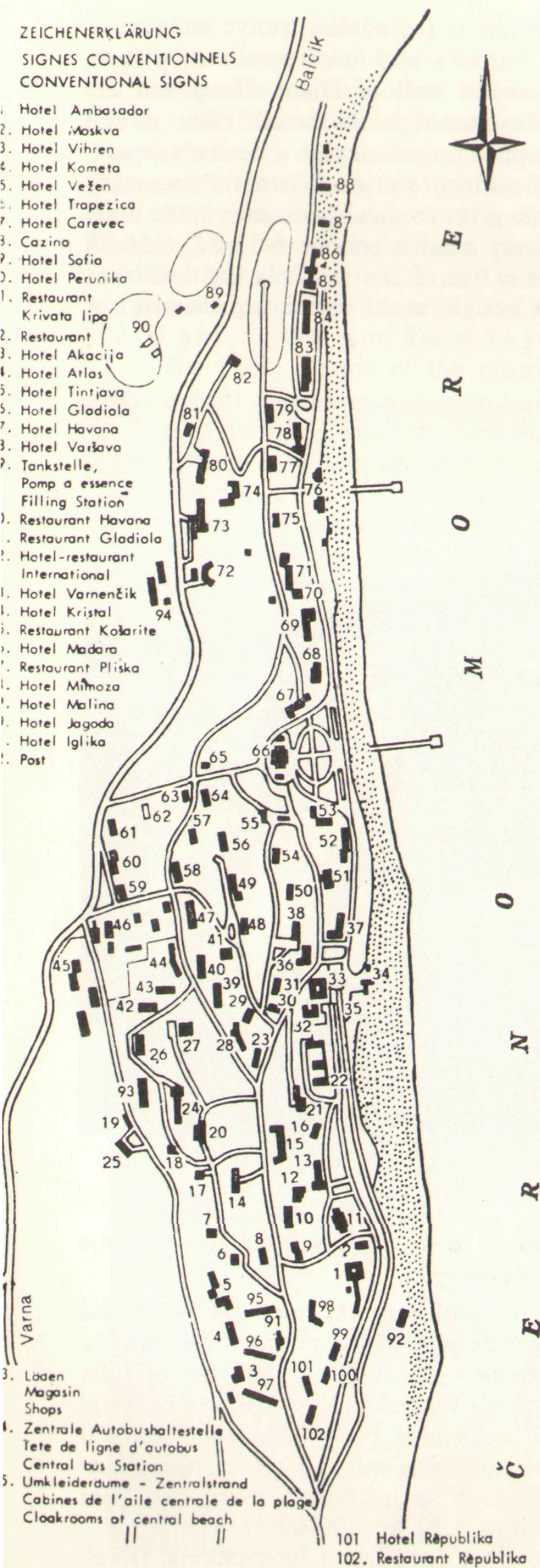


20,000 beds, 500 bungalows and two well-shaded camp sites with accommodation for about 1,800. The builders of the complex have successfully combined the mainly two-storeyed hotels of the first construction stage with the multi-storeyed modern buildings of the last few years, which have interesting architectural features: exquisite winding staircases, ceramic decorations, wood carvings and hammered metal. And all this with due account taken of the requirements for much space, air, sun and comfort.

# ZEICHENERKLÄRUNG

## SIGNES CONVENTIONNELS CONVENTIONAL SIGNS

1. Hotel Ambassador
2. Hotel Moskva
3. Hotel Vihren
4. Hotel Kometa
5. Hotel Vežen
6. Hotel Trapezica
7. Hotel Carevec
8. Casino
9. Hotel Sofia
10. Hotel Perunika
11. Restaurant Krivata lipa
12. Restaurant
13. Hotel Akacija
14. Hotel Atlas
15. Hotel Tintjava
16. Hotel Gladiola
17. Hotel Havana
18. Hotel Varšava
19. Tankstelle, Pomp a essence  
Filling Station
20. Restaurant Havana
21. Restaurant Gladiola
22. Hotel-restaurant International
23. Hotel Varnenčik
24. Hotel Kristal
25. Restaurant Košarite
26. Hotel Madara
27. Restaurant Pliska
28. Hotel Mimoza
29. Hotel Malina
30. Hotel Jagoda
31. Hotel Igljika
32. Post



33. Restaurant Červen rak
34. Hotel Rodina
35. Hotel Erma
36. Hotel Slavei
37. Hotel Čučuliga
38. Restaurant Jalta
39. Hotel Zornica
40. Hotel Serdika
41. Hotel Exelsior
42. Gemeinschaftsheim für das Personal  
Dortoir du personnel  
Hostel for staff
43. Garage
44. Hotel Siniger
45. Hotel Zdravec
46. Hotel Mak
47. Hotel Breza
48. Restaurant Starija dób
49. Hotel Sirena
50. Hotel-restaurant Zlatna kotva
51. Hotel Javor
52. Verwaltung, Administration, Resort  
administration
53. Hotel Palma
54. Hotel Liuljak
55. Hotel Sinčec
56. Volksmiliz  
Poste de la Milice populaire  
Militia headquarters
57. Gemeinschaftsheim Rila  
Foyer Rila  
Rila Hostel
58. Gemeinschaftsheim Zora  
Foyer Zora  
Hostel Zora
59. Poliklinik  
Policlinique  
Out-patient Clinic
60. Hotel Diana
61. Hotel Temenuga
62. Restaurant Vodenicata
63. Casino
64. Hotel-restaurant-bar Astoria
65. Restaurant Kaliakra
66. Hotel Morska zvezda
67. Hotel Metropol
68. Hotel Lilija
69. Restaurant Hemus
70. Hotel Briz
71. Freilichttheater  
Théâtre de plein air  
Open-air Theatre
72. Hotel Lazur
73. Umkleideräume Nordstrand  
Cabines de l'aile nord de la plage  
Cloakrooms at northern beach
74. Hotel Luna
75. Hotel-restaurant Morsko oko
76. Hotel Biser
77. Hotel Horizont
78. Hotel Edelvajs
79. Restaurant Morski zvuci
80. Hotel Obzor
81. Hotel Izgrev
82. Hotel Berlin
83. Restaurant Zlatna ribka
84. Hotel Glarus
85. Jachtklub  
Yacht-club  
Yachtclub
86. Restaurant Kukeri
87. Campingplatz  
Camping  
Camping-site
88. Restaurant Krim
89. Hotel Nimfa
90. Hotel-restaurant Perla
91. Hotel Zora
92. Hotel Veliko Tarnovo
93. Hotel Pliska
94. Hotel Gdansk
95. Hotel Krim
96. Hotel Ofelja
97. Hotel Albena
98. Hotel Albena
99. Hotel Albena
100. Hotel Albena
101. Hotel Republika
102. Restaurant Republika

In the centre of the resort is the administrative building of Balkantourist. There is a barber's and hairdresser's shop here, and some one hundred metres west of Diana Hotel and the Vodenitsata (The Mill) Restaurant is the health clinic of the resort – an excellently equipped polyclinic with a dentist's department and specialized medical laboratories. Whenever necessary a doctor from the polyclinic gives medical assistance in the hotel rooms – for which you only need telephone 6-53-52, 6-56-86 and 6-56-87. Medical care is free of charge. Only the medicines are paid for, which can be bought at the dispensing chemist's of



the polyclinic (tel. 6-56-89) or at the chemist's shop north of the Stariya Dub (Old Oak) Restaurant.

There are volleyball and tennis courts, mini-golf links and croquet pitches in front of the hotels Morsko Oko, Lilia, Rodina and Tintyava. Open every day. Tel. 6-52-54. In front of Lilia Hotel there is a swimming pool for children, and at International Hotel there is an indoor swimming pool with warm mineral water all year round. Lovers of riding will find horses, riding outfits for hire and the services of an instructor (every day from 9.00 to 12.00 a.m. and from 3.00 to 7.00 p.m.)

The *post office* is next to the car park of International Hotel.

It is open from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. without a break. Trunk calls to all parts of the world.

Opposite the post office building, near International Hotel, you will find clothes pressing shops, laundries, bootblacks, watchmakers' shops, etc. In International Hotel and Ambassador Hotel there are hairdresser's shops.

Every hotel has its own car park. In the Balkantourist Service Shop, where the road forks off to Balchik, Varna and Aladja Monastery, you can turn to the car mechanics for help, or obtain spare parts or use the automatic car-wash. Open from 7.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. Tel. 6-53-16.

The filling station of the resort is next to the Kosharata Restaurant and is open day and night.

Next to the Casino Restaurant is a Rent-a-Car service. Open from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. Tel. 6-53-63.

The places of entertainment at the resort offer an original atmosphere and varied programme:

*Tsiganski Tabor* (Gypsy Camp) Night Club serves delicious dishes and excellent wines in Gypsy tents to the music of a Gypsy orchestra. Exotic dances and original souvenirs. Open from 9.00 p.m. to 2.00 a.m.

*Koukeri* (Masked Dancers) Night Club – in original style. From the club there is a wonderful view of the whole resort complex; 'koukeri' dances with quaint masks. Open from 9.00 p.m. to 4.00 a.m.

*Kolibité* Night Club – and Indian settlement. Romantic lighting, interesting floor show and first-class orchestra. Situated in the heart of the forest above the resort. Open from 9.00 p.m. to 2.00 a.m.



*Gorski Kut* Night Club, next to Kolibité. Open from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

*Kosharata* – an original restaurant in Bulgarian folk-style offering sheep and lamb specialities: ewe's milk yoghurt, kourban chorba (mutton soup), grilled lamb, ewe's milk cheese roll, etc. Open from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

*Karakachanski Stan*. The atmosphere is typical of the nomad Karakachan (Wallachian) shepherd settlements in the Rhodopes. The wide range of dishes are prepared and served in the Karakachan way. Situated in the forest next to the Kolibité, Open from 4.00 p.m. to 2.00 a.m.

*Vodenitsata* – an original folk-style restaurant, serving grilled chicken, kebabs, home-made sausages and freshly baked bread. Open from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

*Astoria Bar* – a modern establishment open from May to October. An interesting artistic floor show with music. Situated next to the hotel of the same name. Open from 10.00 p.m. to 4.00 a.m.

*Caney* Night Club – exotic atmosphere, Cuban cocktails, first-class orchestra. Situated right next to Havana Hotel. Open from 4.00 p.m. to 12.00 p.m.

*Trifon Zarezan* Restaurant. Original restaurant with a special hall for wine-tasting. Bulgarian cuisine and a well-stocked bar. Situated on the road to Varna opposite Strandja Hotel. Open from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

*Lovna Sreshta*. Situated in a woody locality close to the rock-cut Aladja Monastery. Game dishes, prepared to local recipes. Orchestra. Open from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

*Picnic* – a tavern in the heart of the forest near Lovna Sreshta. Grill and excellent drinks served. Every evening folklore programme of songs and dances. Open from 5.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.

## DROUZHBA

This was the first resort complex built on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. Its construction started in 1946 and today it has 20 modern hotels with 3,000 beds, many restaurants and folk taverns, bungalows with 200 beds and a camp site for 1,500.

Situated 10 km to the north of Varna and 7 km to the south of Zlatni Pyassatsi. Temperature of the air in July – 22-23°C, and of the water during the whole season – from 23 to 27°C.

There are volleyball and tennis courts, equipment for table tennis and for water sports (scooters, water skis and pedaloos) available for holidaymakers.

On the beach, not far from Varna Restaurant, there is a



large pool with mineral water, the temperature of which at source is 48°C. At the Riviera Hotel, which is open throughout the year, there is also a pool with warm mineral water.

Next to the bus stop in front of Chernomorets Hotel is the medical centre and the pharmacy (tel. 6-10-31). In urgent cases medical care is administered in the patient's hotel room.

The resort is connected by regular bus services with Varna and Zlatni Pyassatsi.

Round the clock taxi service. Telephones: 6-52-19, 2-22-33 and 6-56-75.

The post office is next to Chernomorets Hotel and is open from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.

Shops for personal services are situated north of the central bus stop. The hairdresser's is between Manastirska Izba Restaurant and Odessos Hotel.

Every hotel has a car park. You can have your car repaired at the service shop which is next to the filling station, as well as at the automobile service shop of Balkantourist at Zlatni Pyassatsi (tel. 6-53-16). The filling station is open round the clock.

Interesting places:

*Manastirska Izba* — a restaurant, open from 7.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. The bar is open until 4.00 a.m. Tel. 6-11-77.

*Sedemte Odai* Restaurant. Situated next to the Manastirska Izba. Open from 5.00 p.m. to 12.00 p.m.

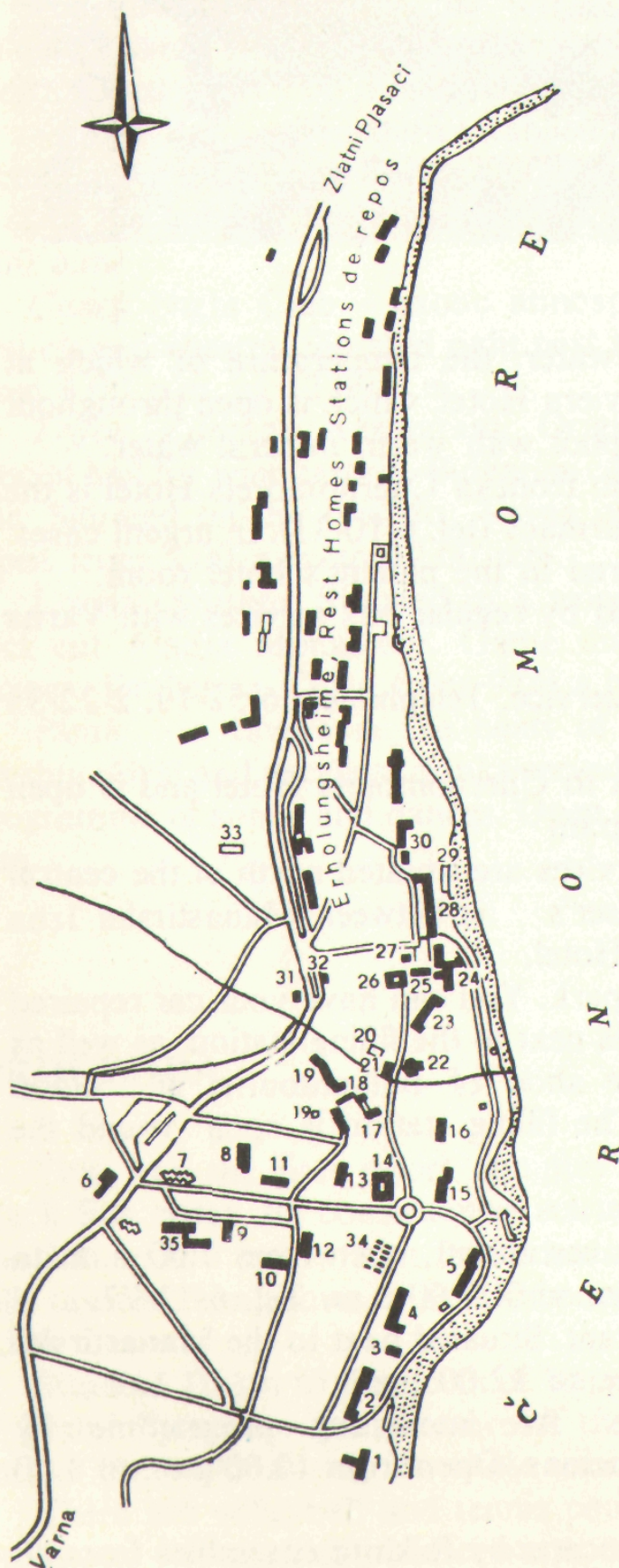
*Chernomorets Tavern*. An interesting programme by Bulgarian and foreign musicians. Open from 10.00 p.m. to 4.00 a.m. Tel. 6-13-13.

In July and August concerts by folklore ensembles from all over the country are given here.

Souvenirs and craft articles can be found in the little shops

next to Chernomorets Restaurant and close to the Manastirska Izba.

More information can be obtained at the tourist bureaux in Chernomorets Restaurant (tel. 6-13-01) and Roubin Hotel (tel. 6-10-20).



ZEICHENERKLÄRUNG  
SIGNES CONVENTIONNELS  
CONVENTICNAL SIGNS

1. Hotel Kaliakra
2. Hotel-restaurant Riviera
3. Hotel Rubin
4. Hotel Lebed
5. Hotel Prostor
6. Restaurant Emona
7. Sektor B - Holzbungalows  
Secteur - B - Bungalows  
Sector B - Wooden cottages
8. Hotel Nezabravka
9. Hotel Emona
10. Hotel Rosica
11. Hotel Gloria
12. Hotel Rusalka
13. Hotel Narcis
14. Läden für Reiseandenken  
Magasins de souvenirs  
Souvenir shops
15. Hotel Bor
16. Restaurant Varna
17. Restaurant Manastirska izba
18. Restaurant Kiliite
19. Hotel Lotos
- 19a. Hotel Praga
20. Internationales Heim der Wissenschaftler  
Maison Internationale des Savants  
International House of Scientist
21. Administration
22. Freilichttheater und -kino  
Théâtre-cinéma de plein air  
Open-air Theatre and Cinema
23. Hotel Odesos
24. Restaurant Černomorec
25. Apotheke  
Pharmacie  
Chemist's Shop
26. Post
27. Läden für Reiseandenken  
Bazar de souvenirs  
Souvenir stands
28. Hotel Roza
29. Umkleideräume  
Cabines  
Cloakrooms
30. Hotel Čaika
31. Tankstelle  
Pompe à essence  
Filling station
32. Zentrale Autobushaltestelle,  
Tête de ligne d'autobus,  
Central bus station
33. Camping Čaika
34. Camping
35. Hotel Korol



## SLUNCHEV BRYAG

Situated on the E-95 highway, 37 km northeas' of the second biggest Bulgarian town of the Black Sea – Bourgas, which can be reached by car, train and air (directly), and 100 km south of Varna. It is the largest resort complex not only on the southern but also on the whole Bulgarian coast. It can accommodate 25,000 people. In it there are 106 modern hotels, 354 bungalows with 744 beds, 35 big restaurants and three camp sites for 3,200.

Unlike Zlatni Pyassatsi and Drouzhba, the Slunchev Bryag resort complex is considered by many foreign visitors to be a more exotic resort, which they prefer to visit. There is some grain of truth in this: here the sand is finer, small dunes and rushes are encountered, the water is shallow and the seabed is even hundreds of metres from the shore and the sun is more powerful. When one adds to this its proximity (only 5 km ) to the wonderful peninsula town of Nessebur, the picture is complete.

In designing the buildings and the park-like surroundings, the architects very successfully combined the traditions of the Bulgarian master builders with the principles of modern architecture. During the first construction stage (1958-59) low-storeyed buildings were mostly erected. There are courtyards between them as was the case with the Bulgarian houses built during the National Revival period in Karlovo. The construction of multi-storeyed buildings in modern style was started in 1959 (Globus, Ropotamo, Olymp, etc.). Side by side with the



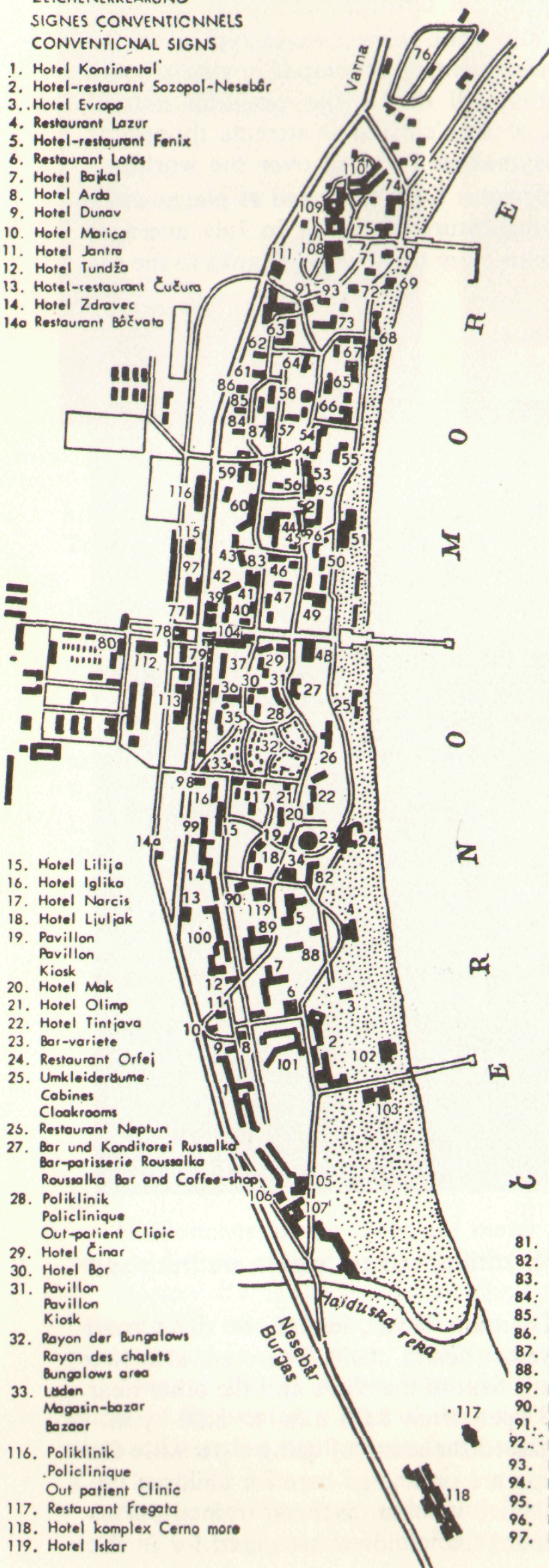
ZEICHENERKLÄRUNG  
SIGNES CONVENTIONNELS  
CONVENTIONAL SIGNS

1. Hotel Kontinental
2. Hotel-restaurant Sozopol-Nesebăr
3. Hotel Evropa
4. Restaurant Lazur
5. Hotel-restaurant Fenix
6. Restaurant Lotos
7. Hotel Bajkal
8. Hotel Arda
9. Hotel Dunav
10. Hotel Marica
11. Hotel Jantre
12. Hotel Tundža
13. Hotel-restaurant Čužura
14. Hotel Zdravec
- 14a Restaurant Băčvata

15. Hotel Lilija
16. Hotel Igljika
17. Hotel Narcis
18. Hotel Ljuljak
19. Pavillon  
Pavillon  
Kiosk
20. Hotel Mak
21. Hotel Olimp
22. Hotel Tintjava
23. Bar-variete
24. Restaurant Orfej
25. Umkleideräume  
Cabines  
Cloakrooms
26. Restaurant Neptun
27. Bar und Konditorei Russalka  
Bar-pâtisserie Roussalka  
Roussalka Bar and Coffee-shop
28. Poliklinik  
Policlinique  
Out-patient Clinic
29. Hotel Činar
30. Hotel Bor
31. Pavillon  
Pavillon  
Kiosk
32. Rayon der Bungalows  
Rayon des chalets  
Bungalows area
33. Läden  
Magasin-bazar  
Bazaar
116. Poliklinik  
Policlinique  
Out patient Clinic
117. Restaurant Fregata
118. Hotel komplex Cerno more
119. Hotel Iskar

34. Läden,  
Magasin  
Shop
35. Hotel Kalina
36. Hotel Akacija
37. Hotel Javor
38. Autobushaltestelle  
Arrêt d'autobus  
Bus station
39. Reisebüro  
Bureau de voyages  
Travel office
40. Verwaltung, Post, Friseursalon  
Administration, poste, salon de coiffure  
Resort administration, post-office and  
barber shop
41. Läden  
Magasin  
Shop
42. Hotel Orion
43. Hotel Jupiter
44. Hotel Saturn
45. Pavillon  
Pavillon  
Kiosk
46. Hotel Venera
47. Hotel Zornica
48. Restaurant-Kazina
49. Hotel-restaurant Globus
50. Hotel Kosmos
51. Restaurant Djunita
52. Hotel Astoria
53. Hotel Avliga
54. Hotel Gălăb
55. Hotel Cajka
56. Freilichttheater  
Théâtre de plein air  
Open-air Theatre
57. Hotel Ropotamo
58. Hotel Plankton
59. Hotel-restaurant Oazis
60. Hotel Junona
61. Hotel Jug
62. Hotel Sever
63. Hotel Jasen
64. Hotel Lebed
65. Hotel Albatros
66. Restaurant Ahelaj
67. Hotel Glarus
68. Umkleideräume  
Cabines  
Cloakrooms
69. Ribarska Hisha  
Chalet des pecheurs  
Fisherman's Hut
70. Hotel Vitosa
71. Hotel Rila
72. Hotel Pirin
73. Hotel Černomorec
74. Restaurant Emona
75. Pavillon beim Campingplatz  
Pavillon du camping  
Kiosk at camping-site
76. Campingplatz  
Camping  
Camping-site
77. Hotel Biser
78. Restaurant Palma
79. Hotel Kora!
80. Wirtschaftssektor  
Marché  
Shopping centre

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 81. Hotel Balkan     | 98. Hotel Svežest             |
| 82. Hotel Žeravi     | 99. Hotel Hrizantema          |
| 83. Hotel Merkuri    | 100. Hotel Sredec             |
| 84. Hotel Kalofer    | 101. Hotel Trakija            |
| 85. Hotel Karlovo    | 102. Restaurant               |
| 86. Hotel Klisura    | 103. Hotel restaurant Burgas  |
| 87. Hotel Rodopa     | 104. Hotel restaurant Kuban   |
| 88. Hotel Pliska     | 105. Hotel Veleka             |
| 89. Hotel Balaton    | 106. Restaurant Kavkaz        |
| 90. Hotel Iskär      | 107. Hotel restaurant Longoza |
| 91. Hotel Hemus      | 108. Hotel Strandza           |
| 92. Hotel Persenk    | 109. Hotel Sredna gora        |
| 93. Hotel Liulin     | 110. Hotel Belasiza           |
| 94. Hotel Slavjanski | 111. Restaurant Strandza      |
| 95. Hotel Šipka      | 112. Bazar Palma              |
| 96. Hotel Palas      | 113. Post                     |
| 97. Hotel Diamant    | 114. Hotel Kristol            |
|                      | 115. Volksmiliz               |



glass façades, which lavishly let through the golden sunshine, you come upon vaulted and yoke-shaped eaves typical of the Bulgarian house, walls and verandahs enveloped in vine arbours and quiet inner courtyards. All this – the beautiful natural scenery and the product of man's hand – attracts thousands upon thousands of holidaymakers from all over the world.

The beach of the complex is 6 km long and at places more than 150 m wide. The temperature of the air in July averages 22°C and rarely comes up to more than 30°C. Thanks to the sea



breezes, the days are never stifling and the nights are fresh and cool.

Some 200 m from Diamant Hotel, left of the main road leading to Varna, is the resort health clinic. There are also two pharmacies, of which one is next to the clinic and the other near the post office. They are open from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Slunchev Bryag has gained the name of being a paradise for children. Day study groups are organized here for children under the supervision of qualified women teachers, trained nurses and doctors. For a minimum fee, children are cared for in the



kindergartens near the hotels Persenk, Balkan, Gramada, Trakia, Continental, Zornitsa and Mercury.

Near the hotels Sokol and Isker there are tennis courts, open from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. The mini-golf links next to the hotels Sever, Isker and Balaton are also open from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

A small train driven by an electric truck circulates in the complex and links Fregata Bar at the southern end with the northernmost night club Vyaturnata Melnitsa (The Windmill). Buses run between the Fregata Bar and the Hanska Shatra Folk Restaurant in the northern part of the resort. At the Information Bureau of Balkantourist near Ropotamo Hotel there are bicycles for hire.

The hairdresser's salons are at the Phoenix Bazaar and near the hotels Trakia, Continental, Bourgas, Kouban and Rila. They are open from 6.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.

The taxi stand is in front of Palma Hotel and is open round the clock. Tel 291.

The car repair shop is behind Park Hotel (tel. 292). The filling station, open day and night, is situated at the fork in the road to Nessebur.

The Rent-a-Car service is next to Palma Restaurant. Tel. 291.

In Slunchev Bryag there are many places of entertainment with a diverse cuisine and interesting floor shows.

*Variety Bar* is the biggest and best night club at the resort, between Olymp and Phoenix hotels. It can accommodate 300 persons and is open from 10.00 p.m. to 4.00 a.m.

*Fregata Bar* is a ship 'stranded' on the sand among the dunes in the southern part of the resort. During the day it is a restaurant and at night a wonderful night club. Open from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 a.m.

*Roussalka Bar* is a night club for 120, with an excellent orchestra and floor show including Bulgarian and foreign ar-



tistes. It is in the centre of the resort next to the Casino Restaurant, open from 10.00 p.m. to 3.00 a.m.

*Hanska Shatra* – an original restaurant built like the tents of the old Bulgarian khans. Places for 300. During the day it functions as a restaurant, and at night as a supper club with an interesting floor show. Open from 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 a.m.

*Chouchoura* folk-style restaurant – furnished in the national Bulgarian style, serves local dishes and drinks to the music of a folk orchestra. Open until 12.00 p.m.

*Vyaturnata Melnitsa* (the Windmill) – a folkstyle restaurant, serving original Bulgarian dishes, cooked as in a mill. At night there is a fantastic view of the brightly lit resort. Open from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. and from 6.00 to 12.00 p.m.

*Ribarska Hizha* – right on the beach near Vitosha Hotel, serving fish and fish specialities. Music. Open until 1.00 a.m.

*Kapitanska Sreshta* – situated in an old, restored house in the harbour of Nessebur. Serves delicious food in a pleasant atmosphere. Open until 11.00 p.m.

At the *Buchvata* and *Robinson* night clubs you can also while away your time in pleasant company.

The International 'Golden Orpheus' Pop Song Festival is held at the resort every year in the month of June and a Ten Days Festival of Symphonic Music at Bourgas, Slunchev Bryag and Primorsko. In July an International Folklore Festival is organized in Bourgas and Slunchev Bryag.

Excursions are organized at the complex to the surroundings and into the country's interior; also to Mamaia, Cairo, Moscow, Kiev and Beirut. For full information, please contact the National Tourist Information Service in the centre of the resort. Working hours – 7.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. Tel. 22-09, 22-29.

## SOUTHERN COAST

The calm warm sea, the endless beaches and dunes, the cloudless days, the picturesque little bays and romantic scenery of the Bulgarian southern coast attract thousands of foreign tourists from the beginning of May to the end of October.

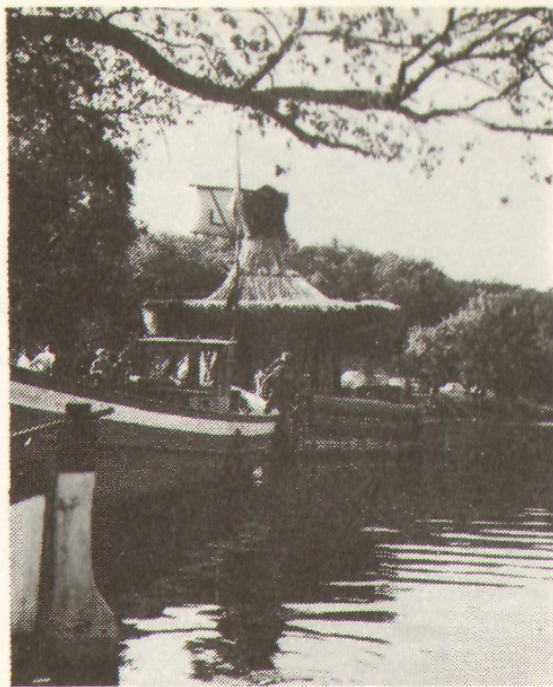
Modern hotels, motels, camp sites, bungalows and restaurants, bars and shops offer comfort and all conveniences to all wishing to spend their holiday amid nature.

The southern Bulgarian coast may justly be called a paradise for campers. Over a stretch of 70 km scores of camp sites have been built, and besides them tourists have at their disposal thousands of private lodgings with the romantic atmosphere of the old houses combined with the comfort of up-to-date modern dwellings.

Five km south of Sozopol tourists will find a motel with 70 beds, Smokinya Camp Site, special class, with accommodation for 1,200 persons, Kavatsité Camp Site – for 600, Vesselié Camp Site – 3rd class, for 450. Besides, there is a 1st-class restaurant, a night club and a small grocer's shop. Information and managing offices at Smokinya Camp Site.

13 km south of Sozopol lies one of the most attractive corners of the Southern Bulgarian coast – the complex of a motel and camp sites, Arkoutino. The motel is two-storeyed, with 2- and 3-bed rooms and showers. The first-class restaurant next to the motel serves excellent Bulgarian and French dishes and





choice drinks. Lilia Night Club is noted for its exotic atmosphere.

Arkoutino Camp Site, 1st class, for 1,200; Lilia Camp Site, 2nd class, also for 1,200. To the south of them flows one of the most picturesque and interesting Bulgarian rivers – the Ropotamo.

The village of Primorsko lies 27 km south of Sozopol and 59 km from Bourgas. There are 800 private lodgings for tourists, many restaurants and holiday houses. Perla Camp Site, special class, is one of the best organized in the area. Capacity – 4,000 guests at a time with 1,000 cars – plus all modern conveniences. The Less Camp Site, 1st class, for 1,900 and Atliman Camp Site, 1st class, for 1,000, are also near Primorsko.

For information and full details, please contact the Balkan-tourist Bureau on the central village square or the one at Perla Camp Site.

3 km south of Primorsko in a young oak forest is the International Youth Tourist Centre, with its three modern hotels, hundreds of bungalows, restaurants, night clubs and folk-style taverns, etc. The complex has room for 3,000 holidaymakers. Stays at the centre are organized by the *Orbita* Youth Bureau for International Excursions in Sofia.

Right next to the Youth Centre and south of it lies the town of Kiten with several camp sites: Coop – 2nd class, for 700, Youg – 1st class, for 600, Koral – 2nd class, for 1,200.

The picturesque fishing port of *Michurin* lies 76 km from Bourgas and offers lodgings in private homes. In the town centre there is a restaurant and a tourist bureau.

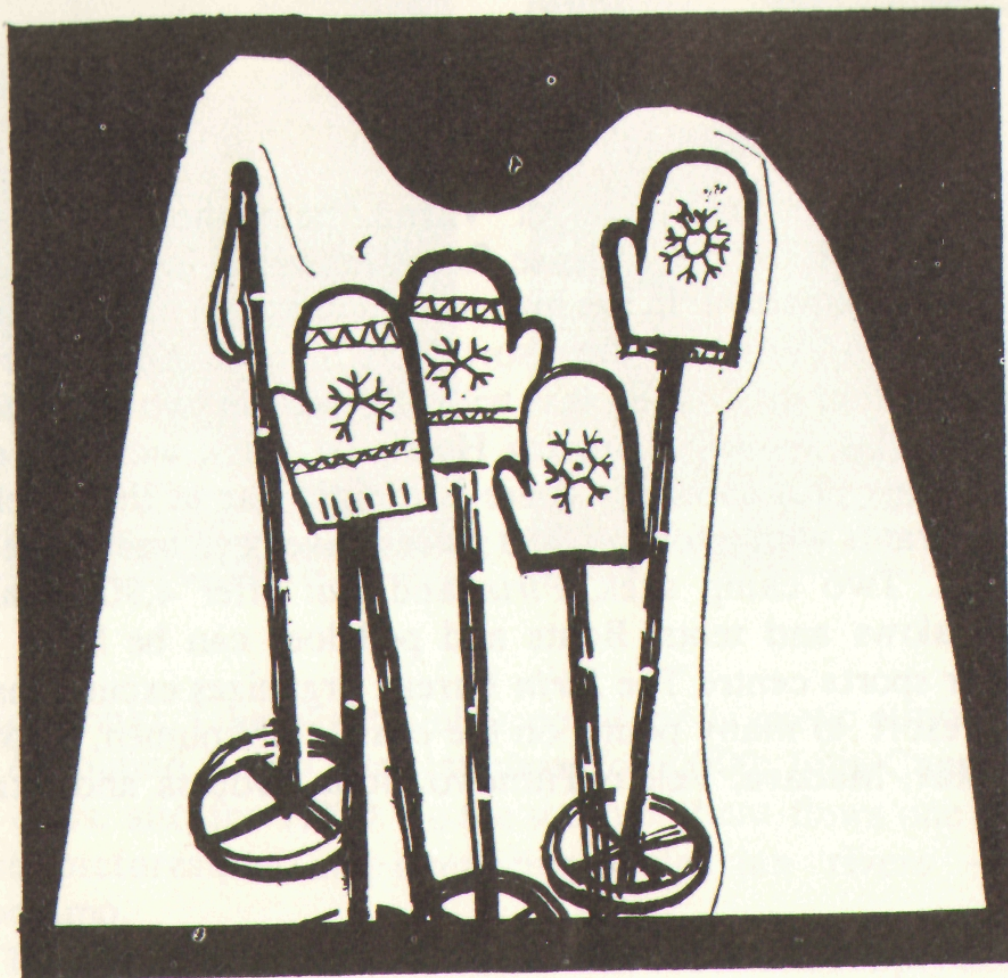
The nearby village of *Bulgari* is well-known for its ritual folklore nestinarski dances (barefoot dances on live coals.)

Another 15 km further south lies the smallest town on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast – *Ahtopol*. Near it is the Ahtopol Camp Site, 2nd class, for 400. The picturesque River Veleka flows into the sea nearby.

## KAMCHIYA

Some 30 km south of Varna, near the mouth of the Kamchiya River, in a dense forest entwined in lianas, lies the resort of Kamchiya. In the high season there is a regular bus service between Varna and the resort. Here there is *Kamchiya Hotel* (with restaurant), 1st-B class with 130 beds in two and three-bed rooms plus shower; *Longoza Hotel*, 1st class, with 100 double bedrooms plus showers. There is a night bar at the hotel. Two restaurants with a total of 350 places have been built close to the beach. Two camp sites, *Pirin* and *Rai* offer 4,900 places in bungalows and tents. Boats and pedaloes can be hired at the water sports centre. The *Pirin Bureau* organizes excursions from the resort to many points on the coast, to Shoumen, Pliska and Preslav, Madara, Veliko Turnovo, Sofia, Odessa and Istanbul.





MOUNTAIN RESORTS

Besides the magnificent seaside resorts on the Black Sea coast, there are also high-mountain resorts in Bulgaria, which offer tourists ideal opportunities for holidaying and entertainment. Situated in the picturesque Rila, Rhodope and Vitosha mountains, these resorts are connected by modern roads and can be visited in all seasons of the year.

## **BOROVETS**

Situated at an altitude of 1,300 m above sea level in the northern folds of the pine-covered Rila Mountains, it has an excellent climate for holidaymaking both in summer and in winter, low humidity, intensive ultraviolet radiation and mean temperatures ranging from  $+21.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  in summer to  $-1.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  in winter.

As a winter sports centre, Borovets boasts a great many ski runs: the longest one – Yastrebets (3,100 m with a drop of 860



m), a downhill run (2,400 m with 450 m drop), a slalom track (450 m, drop 120 m), a ski-jump of 80 m, training tracks, etc.



The Balkantourist hotels are in the centre of the resort: *Bor* Hotel, 1st-A class, with 100 beds in 48 rooms and three de luxe suites. The restaurant at the hotel has a banqueting hall for 50, an orchestra, bar and folklore corner; *Edelweiss* Hotel, 1st-A class, with 200 beds in 102 rooms and two suites. There is a restaurant-bar in the hotel. In winter skis, sleds, skates and other equipment are for hire.

Near the big ski-track stands *Iglika* Hotel run by the *Pirin* Tourist Bureau; 17 twin-bed rooms with private baths, 22 twin-bed rooms and 48 rooms with 4 and 8 beds each. Near the hotel there is a small restaurant catering for 100 guests at a time.

Interesting excursions and hikes can be undertaken from Borovets to the picturesque environs of the resort: to Mount Moussala (2,925 m, the highest peak on the Balkans), to Malyovitsa Peak (2,729 m, with a chalet for 100 tourists), to the Black Rock, to the former palaces of Sitnyakovo, Bistritsa and Sarugyol, to Sokolets, to Zavrachitsa Peak (2,178 m) – a 6-hour walk from Borovets with a chalet for 800 and excellent ski-tracks, to Yastrebits Peak (2,350 m) – 3 hours away with ski-track.

At the resort there is a post office, a clinic, currency exchange and tourist information bureau, souvenir stands. Chronic inflammations of the respiratory ducts, light bronchitis, laryngitis, hypertonia, atherosclerosis, diabetes and silicosis are treated in the resort.

A first-class road leads from Sofia to the resort, passing Pancharevo, several lakes, the Isker Dam and Samokov. There is a regular 40-minute bus service to Samokov.

## 'PAMPOROVO

Along with Borovets, it is one of the best-known mountain resort complexes in Bulgaria, situated at an altitude of 1,650 m above sea level in the heart of the Rhodopes, 80 km south of Plovdiv. It is surrounded by mountain slopes covered with pines and with sunflooded glades, fragrant with forest flowers. The climate of the resort is influenced by the warm air of the Aegean Sea – mild, with an average annual temperature of 5°C, a cool summer, sunny autumn and comparatively long winter, with plenty of snowfall but warm and sunny. The incised



relief of the region and the forests protect it from the cold winds. From December to March it is covered with snow and from May to September there is no snow at all.

For tourists there are several first-class hotels run by Balkantourist: *Panorama* (1st class) with 170 beds in single and twin-bed rooms. The restaurant of the hotel can cater for 180 persons at a time. In summer meals and snacks are served on the terrace, too. There is a folkstyle tavern, a night club, a spacious lobby in the Rhodope style, a souvenir stand, postal service and a hire service for skis, equipment, sleds, etc. *Orphei* Hotel (1st class) has 182 beds in single twin- and three-bed rooms. At the hotel there is an original restaurant with 360 places, a night club, a folk-style tavern, currency exchange and tourist information bureaux, a sunny terrace, etc. *Snezhanka* Hotel, with 50 rooms, and a total of 106 beds, has a restaurant and a folkstyle tavern, too. The new 10-storey *Mourgavets* Hotel



has 160 beds, a restaurant, bar, etc. The *Rozhen* Hotel (1st class), with 178 beds and a restaurant seating 287, with a folk-style lounge, day and night bars and a terrace, and the *Prespa* Hotel (1st class), with 176 beds and a cafe, day and night bars, folk-style room and games room, are linked with a covered passage.

During the winter the resort is a veritable paradise for skiers. Holidaymakers can use ski-tracks to suit even the most exacting requirements: a downhill track (1,800 m with a drop in height of 400 m), a slalom track (800 m with a drop of 300 m), a giant slalom track (2,200 m with a drop of 520 m), ski-tracks for 15 and 10 km runs and a ski-jump. There are two chair lifts and two tow lifts.

The resort is renowned as a treatment centre for diseases of the liver, ailments of the respiratory ducts, bronchial asthma, hypertonia, atherosclerosis, etc.



The road to Pamporovo branches off from Plovdiv and leads through the valley of the Assenitsa River, past King Assen's Fortress and the Bachkovo Monastery, well-known for its valuable mural paintings dating from the Middle Ages. Almost midway to Pamporovo, some 45 km from Plovdiv, lies the international spa of *Narechen*. Pleasant hikes may be undertaken from Pamporovo to Stoudenets Chalet at an altitude of 1,735 m, with 200 beds, showers, a restaurant and a lift which then goes on to *Snezhanka Peak*; to *Snezhanka Peak* by lift or on foot; to *Mourgavets Peak* (1,850 m) via Stoudenets Chalet; to *Shiroka Luka* village, *Chepelaré* and *Stoikité*, where the visitor can see original, gaily-coloured blankets, hand-embroidered clothes and other unusual souvenirs. Also of interest, though somewhat farther away, are the picturesque localities *Dyavolski Most* (Devil's Bridge), *Chernata Stena* (The Black Wall), the *Ledenika* cave, the natural *Rock Bridges*, the town of *Smolyan* and the beautiful *Smolyan Lakes*.



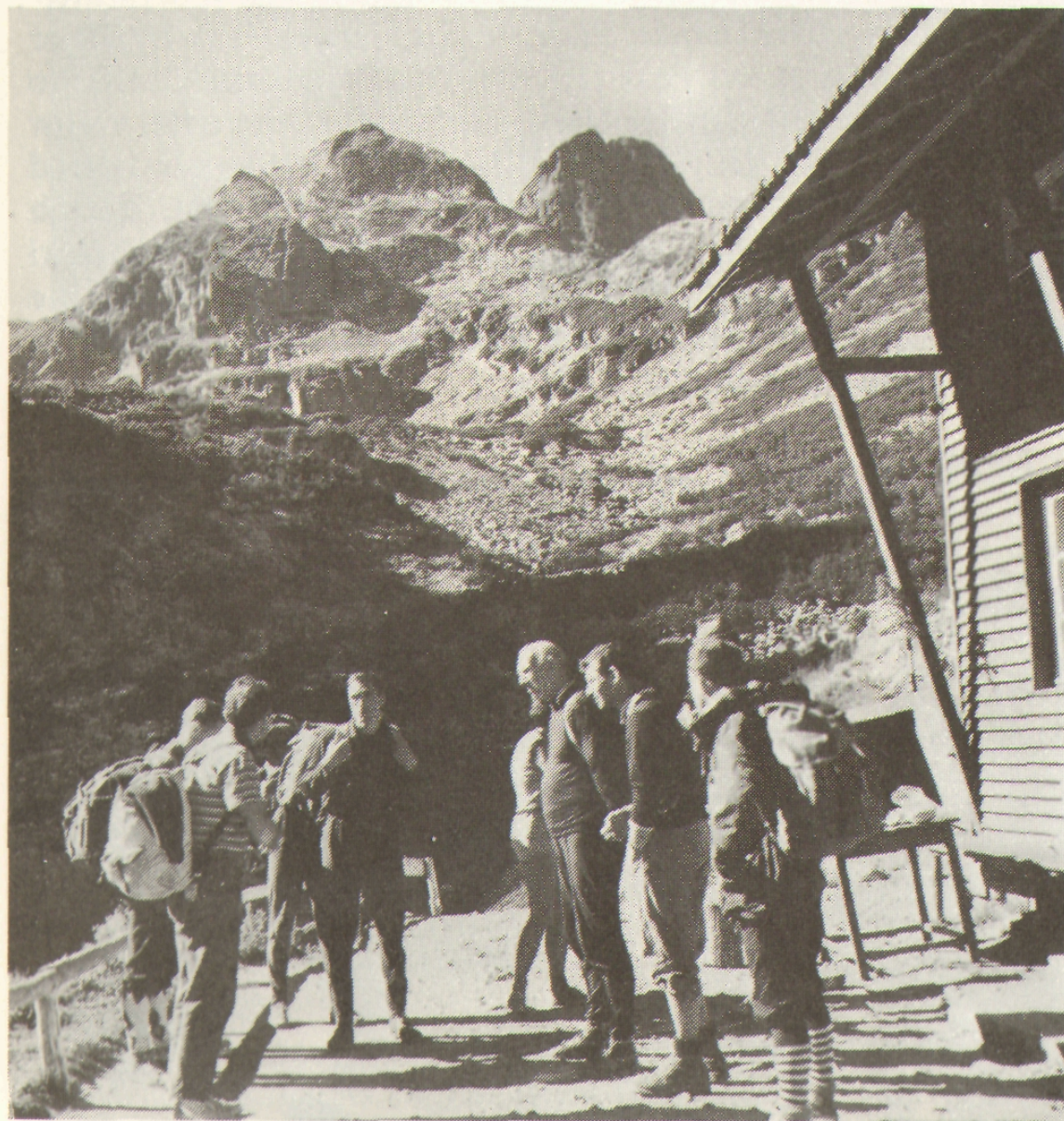
## MALYOVITSA

Less than 100 km south of Sofia and 38 km from Borovets in one of the most picturesque areas of the Rila Mountains lies the high-mountain resort of Malyovitsa (1,750 m above sea level). South of the complex rise the steep slopes of Malyovitsa Peak (2,729 m). The resort offers excellent conditions for holidaying both in summer and winter. *Malyovitsa* Hotel (1st-B class) has 40 twin-bed rooms with showers, and 30 rooms with three beds each and showers, i.e. a total of 170 beds. The restaurant can cater for 240 persons at a time, in the day bar there are 50 places and the night bar has room for 100.

In winter the resort is an ideal place for winter sports: ski tracks for competitions and for amateur downhill runs, a slalom track, training tracks and tow lifts.

Malyovitsa Complex is a starting point for many hikes in the Rila Mountains: to Malyovitsa Chalet at an altitude of 2,050 m, to Malyovitsa Peak (a 3-hours' tramp), to the Ourdina Lakes or to the Seven Lakes (a tramp of 4-5 hours), to the Rila Monastery (6-7 hours away), etc.

An asphalt road leads from the resort to Sofia via Samokov.





## ALEKO

In one of the most attractive parts of Mount Vitosha and some 25 km from Sofia is situated the most recently opened resort centre where Balkantourist now caters for foreign tourists. Its mean annual temperature is  $3.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The complex is made up of the first-class hotels *Shtastlivetsa* (altitude – 1,810 m) 206 beds, restaurant, bars; *Moreni*, 1st class, 26 beds; *Prostor*, with 200 beds, a bar and tavern. In immediate proximity to the tourist complex is a ski run which is 1,500 m long and has a drop of 420 m. Another run 2,800 m long and with a drop of 600 m is in the Knyazhevo suburb of Sofia. Two cabin lifts, two chair lifts and two tow lifts. Skis, sleds and equipment can be hired.

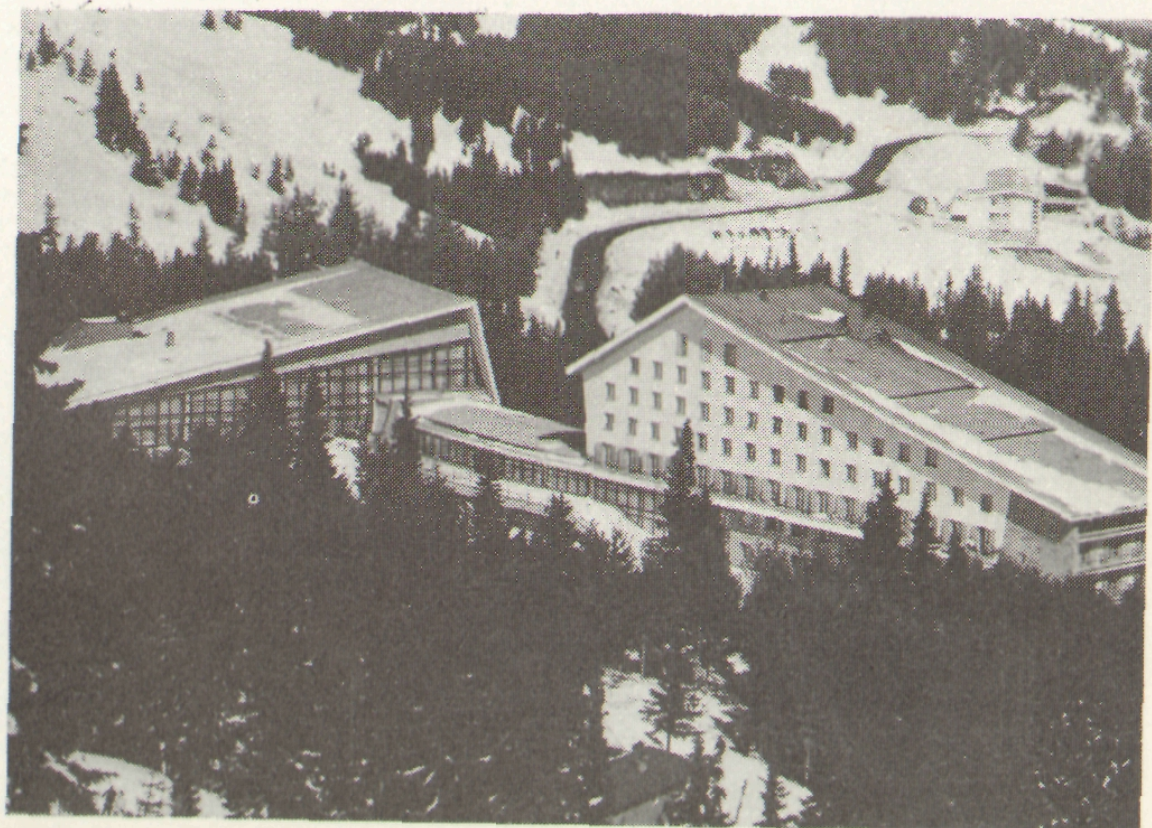
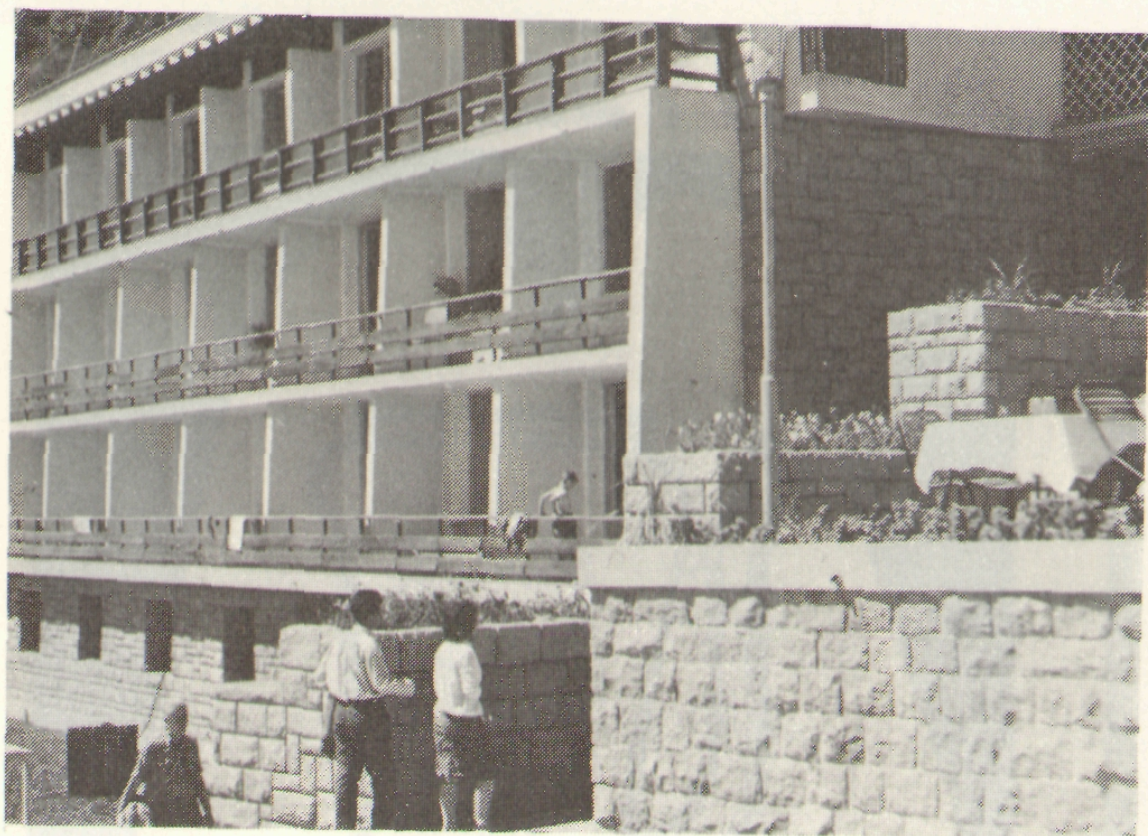
Cherni Vruh (The Black Peak), Mount Vitosha's highest peak (2,290 m), can be reached very quickly and easily from the complex, as well as the Boyana Church, well-known for its unique murals, the Kopitoto Hotel (with restaurant), 1st class with

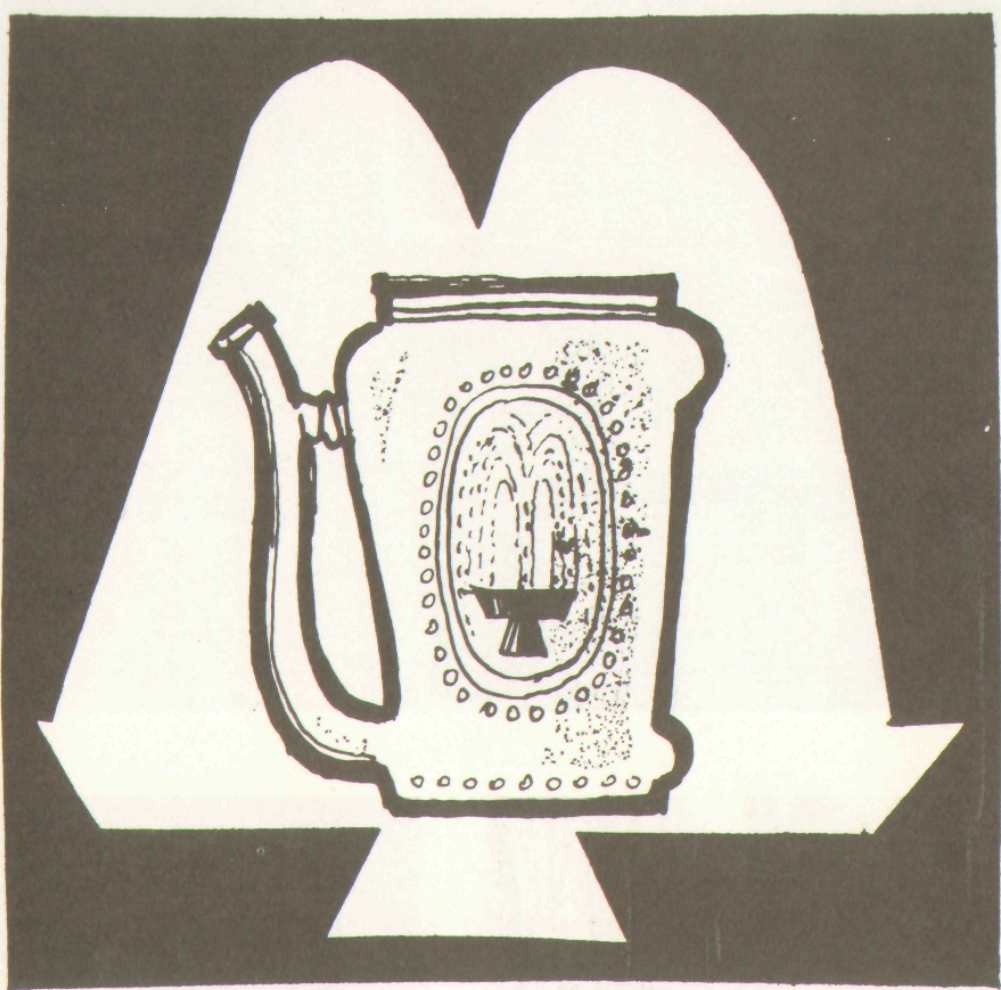


48 beds and 220 places in the restaurant, the Zlatni Mostovë (Golden Bridges) Restaurant (114 places), the Tihiya Kut motel, 1st class with 67 beds and restaurant, etc.

Three kilometres from the village of Dragalevtsi near the lower station of the lift there are two original Millers' Taverns, where national dishes and choice drinks are served.







SPAS

Bulgaria is rich in mineral springs. More than 500 mineral springs have been registered so far, of which 200 are well-exploited. On these pages we hope to acquaint the reader with six of the best-known Bulgarian spas.

## HISSAR

It lies 42 km north of Plovdiv, from which it can be reached along an asphalt road. Its waters were already known to the Thracians and Romans. There are 20 hot springs with a temperature of 37° to 51° C and a total flow of 4,000 l/min. Most radioactive is the water of the Momina Banya spring with a temperature of 48° C. It is used to treat diseases of the kidneys, the liver and the bile ducts, chronic gastritis, ulcer, colitis, obesity, diabetes, gout, etc. The water of the other springs alleviates diseases of the bones, the peripheral and central nervous system, gynaecological complaints, etc. The waters are usually used for baths, for which special pools have been built, but some are also for drinking. The modern complex *Augusta* has 150 beds, a modern restaurant, milk bar, etc.

But Hissar is attractive not only for its mineral springs and their curative properties. Rare cultural monuments have been preserved here. Of particular interest are the *Fortress Walls*, with a total length of 2,325 m. The fortress has four gates, the most important of which was later named Kamilité (The Camels). It is a combination of a triumphal arch 15 m high and an entrance gate with semi-circular niches, in which statues were placed. It has been in existence for nearly 1,000 years.

During the excavations in the last 25 years remains of nine



basilicas have been discovered, which show that the town was the seat of a bishop in the 5th and 6th centuries. Of great interest is Basilica No 1, 100 m west of Kamilité (dating from the 4th or 5th century) and Basilica No 2 (probably from the 5th century) on the site of the present-day museum. Recently a tomb dating from the 4th century was excavated, decorated with murals and mosaics in the style of late antiquity. The foundations of Roman baths, architectural fragments of capitals, columns, statues, etc., revealing a pure Roman style, testify to the Roman origin of the baths.

## VELINGRAD

The town is situated on the railway line Pazardjik-Septemvri-Dobrinishté in the Rhodope Mountains. A good road links it to Pazardjik. In the environs of Velingrad, which is made up of the former villages of Chepino, Ludjené and Kamenitsa, there are some 70 hot springs, whose total daily flow is 5 million litres. Besides rheumatic ailments, the waters also treat diseases of the peripheral nervous system, gynaecological diseases, inflammatory processes of the respiratory ducts and the lungs. As a climatic resort Velingrad is also used for the treatment of bronchial asthma, chronic bronchitis, thyrotoxicosis, secondary anaemia, etc. The balneosanatorium is supplied with all the necessary equipment for all-round treatment and is staffed by qualified doctors and trained nurses.

*Zdravets* Hotel (with restaurant), 1st-B class, has 200 beds, the restaurant has 400 seats and another 400 in the open, the café has 300 seats and there is also a bar. There are two camp sites near by: Kleptouza and Velyuva Banya.



## KYUSTENDIL

The town was the Roman settlement of Pautalia. From Sofia, Kyustendil can be reached by road or rail – the railway line Sofia-Gyueshevo. It is only 95 km from the capital. The well-known shrine of the deity Asclepius, the patron of medicine, stood in ancient Pautalia; there prayers were said and the pools were used to rid the sick and suffering of their disease. Today there are some 40 hot springs in the spa. Their water is sulphurous and has a temperature of 76°C. Besides gynaecological complaints, it also cures rheumatism, arthritis, arthrosis, diseases of the peripheral nervous system and cardiovascular diseases.

*Pautalia* Hotel (with restaurant), with 48 beds, Velbuzhd Square, tel. 20-48; *Hissarluka* Hotel (with restaurant), with 34 beds, tel. 20-10.

Interesting tourist sights: the Pirgova Tower, an architectural monument from the 15th century; St. George's Church, in the south-eastern part of the town, dating from the 12th-13th century; the Vladimir Dimitrov-The Master Art Gallery.

Of particular interest is the Zemen Monastery, which is 25 km from Kyustendil on the railway line to Sofia.

## BANKYA

Lying 17 km from Sofia, Bankya can be reached by car, bus or train in a matter of minutes. Its name comes from the Roman 'balneum' which means 'baths'. The temperature of the water of the main spring is 36.5°C and it flows at a rate of 1,400 l/min. The water is hydro-carbonate-sulphate-sodium with low mineralization. It contains traces of magnesium and iodine. In addition to cardio-vascular diseases, it is also used in the treatment of diabetes, neuralgia and thyrotoxicosis. The water produces a reflex action on the nerve endings of the skin and on the interior organs. The mineral elements contained in it, after penetrating the skin, reach the blood circulation. When imbibed, the water influences the digestive system and stimulates the digestive organs, neutralizing increased acidity of the stomach and stimulating the activity of the cells, tissues and organs. The complex in Bankya has several pools, a special hospital and sana-

torium for children and adults suffering from rheumatism and from heart diseases.

*Zarenitsa Hotel (with restaurant).*

## **NARECHEN**

The resort is situated amid wonderful mountain scenery, 45 km south of the city of Plovdiv. There are two mineral springs. The water of the one is led to the newly built pool and has a temperature of 30°C, and the water of the other, the so-called Salt Spring (23°C) is used only for drinking. For radioactivity, this second spring is the first in Bulgaria and tenth in the world (1,060 emanations per litre). The Narechen mineral baths are used for the treatment of neuroses, especially neurasthenia in all its forms, and of ulcers, gastritis, liver and bile disorders, diseases of the endocrine glands, etc. Several balneosanatoria have been built in Narechen, and the many private and public villas lend it the appearance of a first-class resort.

## **MOMIN PROHOD**

It lies 3 km from the railway station of Kostenets (on the railway line Sofia-Plovdiv) and is 73 km from Sofia. Its mineral water has a sulphate-sodium-fluorine chemical composition. It is slightly mineralized, with a temperature of 65.4°C and a flow of 800 l/min. For its radioactivity it is the second Bulgarian mineral spring (560em/l) next to the Salt Spring in Narechen, which has already been mentioned. Momin Prohod became particularly well-known after the opening of the special sanatorium for the treatment of polio after-effects in children between the ages of 1 and 14, with defects in the extremities. The treatment, which is conducted under the supervision of neurologists, orthopedic specialists, balneologists and physiotherapists, usually gives satisfactory results. The Bulgarian medicine Nivalin is widely used here. The waters of Momin Prohod are also used in the treatment of diabetes and gout, skin diseases, diseases of the respiratory ducts and the lungs.



# MAJOR CITIES AND TOWN



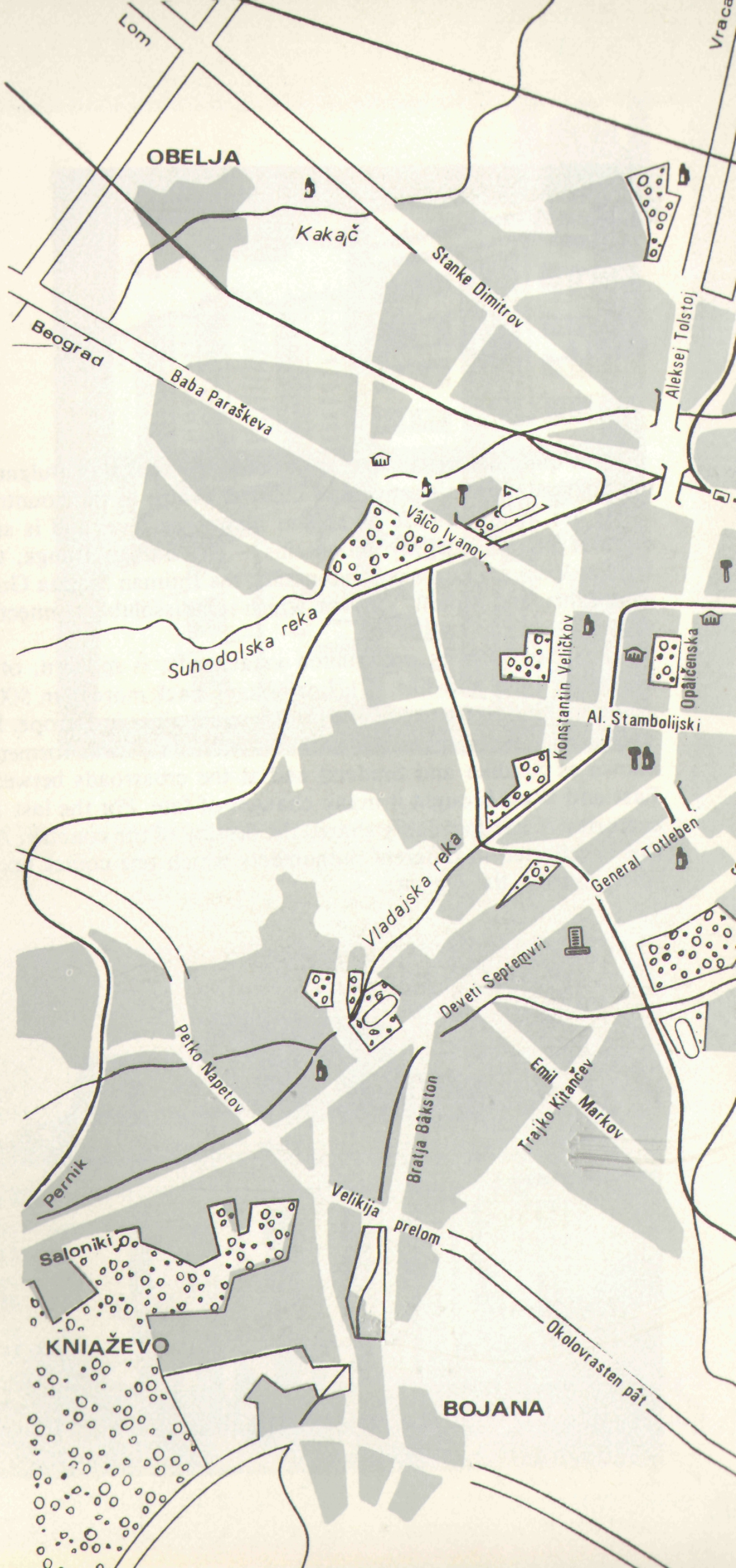
## SOFIA

It is quite natural to start with Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, the political, administrative and cultural centre of the country.

It lies at an altitude of 550 m above sea level and is surrounded on all sides by mountains – the Balkan Range, the Lyulin, Viskyar, Lozenska mountains, the Ihtiman Sredna Gora mountains, and Mount Vitosha, which is indissolubly connected with it.

The city with its one million inhabitants, is modern, of a European type and has a history going back more than 5000 years, making Sofia one of the most ancient cities in Europe. Its situation in the heart of the Balkan Peninsula (it was formerly known as Serdika and Sredets) and at the crossroads between East and West brought it many changes of fate. For the last 13 centuries it has inevitably shared the destiny of the country. All this is reflected in different monuments which one comes upon when touring the big city.





# SOFIA



Hotel



Theatre



Museum



Monument



Post office



Balkan Airways office



Railway booking office



Petrol station



Service station



Central railway station



The motto of our capital is 'Ever growing, never old'; the truth of those words can be seen not only by its citizens, but by those who see it again after a certain lapse of time; visitors are surprised at the rates and scale of its development. Another thing also impresses foreign guests and they always point it out as their first impression: that Sofia is a very clean and green city.

What is it that we, as citizens of Sofia, would like to make sure that our guests see?

*Ancient Monuments:* St George's Church – behind the Balkan Hotel, in its inner courtyard. The church dates from the 3rd-4th century. The Round Tower (3rd century) of the fortress wall of Sofia – at the corner of Serdika and Isker Streets; the Triangular Tower (5th-6th century) in the basement of 'Sofia' Department Store; St Sophia's Church (5th-6th century) – in the northwestern part of Alexander Nevsky Square; the uncovered wall and exhibits in the pedestrian subway at the end of Legué Street.

*From the Turkish period:* Buyuk Djamiya (15th century) – at the corner of Legué and Alexander Stamboliiski Blvd; Banya Bashi Djamiya (16th century), opposite the Central Supermarket; the Black Mosque (16th century), now the Seven Saints' Church – at the corner of Graf Ignatiev and Tsar Shishman streets.

*Small churches with interesting mural paintings:* St Nikolai – Tsar Kaloyan St.; St Petka – in the courtyard of the building on the corner of Stamboliiski Blvd and Tsar Kaloyan Street; St Petka Samardjiiska – in the pedestrian sub-way on Lenin Square.

*More recent monuments:* Monument to the Liberators, Narodno Subranié Square, to the memory of the Russian liberators of Bulgaria from Ottoman rule, the work of the Italian sculptor Arnaldo Zocchi; Alexander Nevsky Memorial Church, on the square of the same name (in its basement the Crypt houses an original exhibition of icons); Monument to the Soviet Army – in the park between Rousski Blvd, Tolbukhin Blvd and Evlogi Georgiev Blvd; the Obelisk to those who fell in the anti-fascist struggle – on the common grave in Freedom Park; the Georgi Dimitrov Mausoleum, – on the Ninth of September Square; Lenin's Monument – on Lenin Square.

*Museums:* Archaeological Museum – Alexander Stamboliiski Blvd; Ethnographic Museum – The Ninth of September Square (in the former royal palace); Natural Science Museum, 1 Rousski Blvd; Museum of the Revolutionary Movement in Bulgaria, 14 Rousski Blvd; National Military History Museum, 23 Skobelev Blvd; Church History and Archaeological Museum, 19 Lenin Square; Museum of Bulgaro-Soviet Friendship, 4 Klement Gottwald Blvd; Museum of the History of Sofia, 27 Exarch Yossif Street; Dimitar Blagoev Museum-House, Lajos Cossuth Street; Georgi Dimitrov Museum-House, 66 Opulchenska Street; Alexander Stamboliiski Museum-House, 44 Souhodol Street; Ivan Vazov Museum-House, 10 Ivan Vazov Street; Petko and Pencho Slaveikov Museum-House, 138 Rakovski Street; Peyo Yavorov Museum-House, 136 Rakovski Street; Hristo Smyrnenski Museum-House, 116 Emil Shekerdjiiski Street; Nikola Vaptsarov Museum-House, 37 Angel Kunchev Street.

National Art Gallery – Ninth of September Square, in the former royal palace.

*Interesting buildings:* The National Assembly, the University of Sofia, the National Theatre, the Palace of Justice, the Central Home of the People's Army, the Ministry of Defence, the Holy Synod Building, the Bulgarian National Bank, Universiade Hall, the Central Supermarket, etc.

*Parks:* Freedom Park, Hristo Smyrnenski Park (Western Park), Vladimir Zaimov Park, Park of the Doctors' Monument, etc.

*Major hotels:* Park Hotel Moskva – tel. 45-51-21; Sofia, 4.

Narodno Subranié Square – tel. 87-88-21; Balkan, 2 Lenin Square – tel. 87-65-43; Bulgaria, 4 Rousski Blvd – tel. 87-19-77; Pliska, 87 Lenin Blvd – tel. 72-37-21; Hemus, 31 Georgi Traikov Blvd – tel. 66-14-15; Slavia, Hippodrouma Housing Estate – tel. 52-55-51; Serdika, 2 Vladimir Zaimov Blvd – tel. 44-34-11; Slavyanska Bessedá, 127 Rakovski Street tel. 88-36-91; Vitosha, 9 Isker Street- tel. 88-01-12; Sevastopol, 116 Rakovski Street – tel. 87-59-41; Preslav, 3 Triaditsa Street – tel. 87-65-86; Lyulin, 2 Triaditsa Street, tel. 88-56-42.

Well, the time has now come to get away from it all and go



back to Mother Nature to take a breath of fresh air and mull over your impressions. Sofia is blessed in this respect, too, for its surroundings are of unique scenic beauty. So get your car ready and let's go! The first place to go to, of course, is Mount Vitosha, the capital's outstanding landmark and an integral part of its landscape. Moreover, on the way there is a little gem that you simply can't afford to miss.

You'd hardly suspect that the little unassuming *Boyana Church* in a village in the foothills of Mount Vitosha, a mere six miles from the city centre, is one of Bulgaria's foremost

monuments of medieval art. But just go inside and you'll have another 'think' coming for there you will find 13th-century murals that are veritable masterpieces of medieval art.

After leaving this little art treasure, you'll be in the very heart of the mountain in less than half an hour. There you may visit *Kopitoto* (The Hoof), a modern hotel with restaurant built on a big rock projecting out into space, offering you a wonderful panoramic view of Sofia and the whole surrounding plain. If you drive on for another ten minutes, you will reach the famous *Zlatni Mostové* (Golden Bridges), a picturesque spot with a veritable



river of stones washed by the waters of a real river, and where you will find a very cosy Tyrolese-style restaurant.

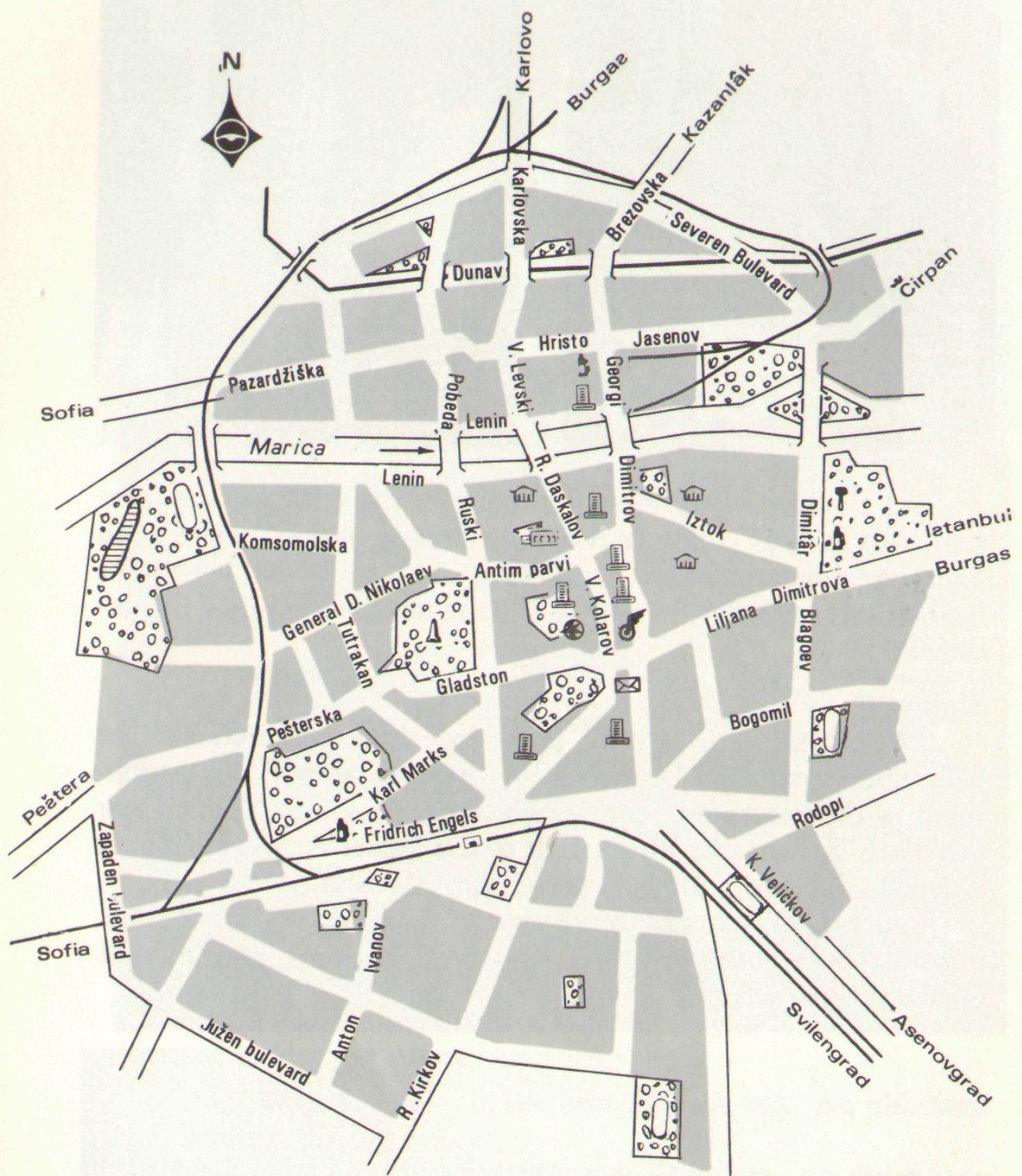
## PLOVDIV



The second largest city in Bulgaria, and its unofficial second capital. It has a population of about 300,000. Centre of the fertile Thracian Plain, a city with a very long history, revealed by the different names under which it was mentioned in history: Pulpudeva, Philippopolis, Trimontium. Built on six hills on both banks of the largest interior Bulgarian river, the Maritsa. An old industrial, cultural and commercial centre, developing rapidly nowadays. Well-known abroad for its annual International Fair. Scattered around six syenite hills rising in a vast plain and lying on the two banks of the Maritsa River, Plovdiv is not only beautifully situated, but also has an inimitable charm of its own. Its oldest part comprises the three hills called Trimontium encompassing the heights of Djambaz, Taxim and Nebet. Once upon a time the rulers of the town built high walls around it, of which all that has remained are Hissar kapiya, one of the three fortress gates and ruins. The three other hills have been turned into lovely parks which seem to float above the town.



## PLOVDIV



KYE



Hotel



## Theatre



Museum



### Monument



Post office



Balkan Airways office



Railway booking office



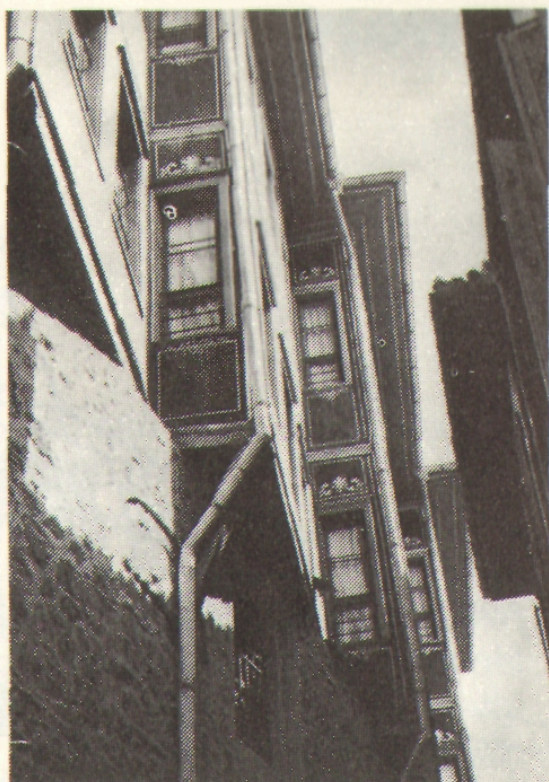
Petrol station



Service station



Central railway station



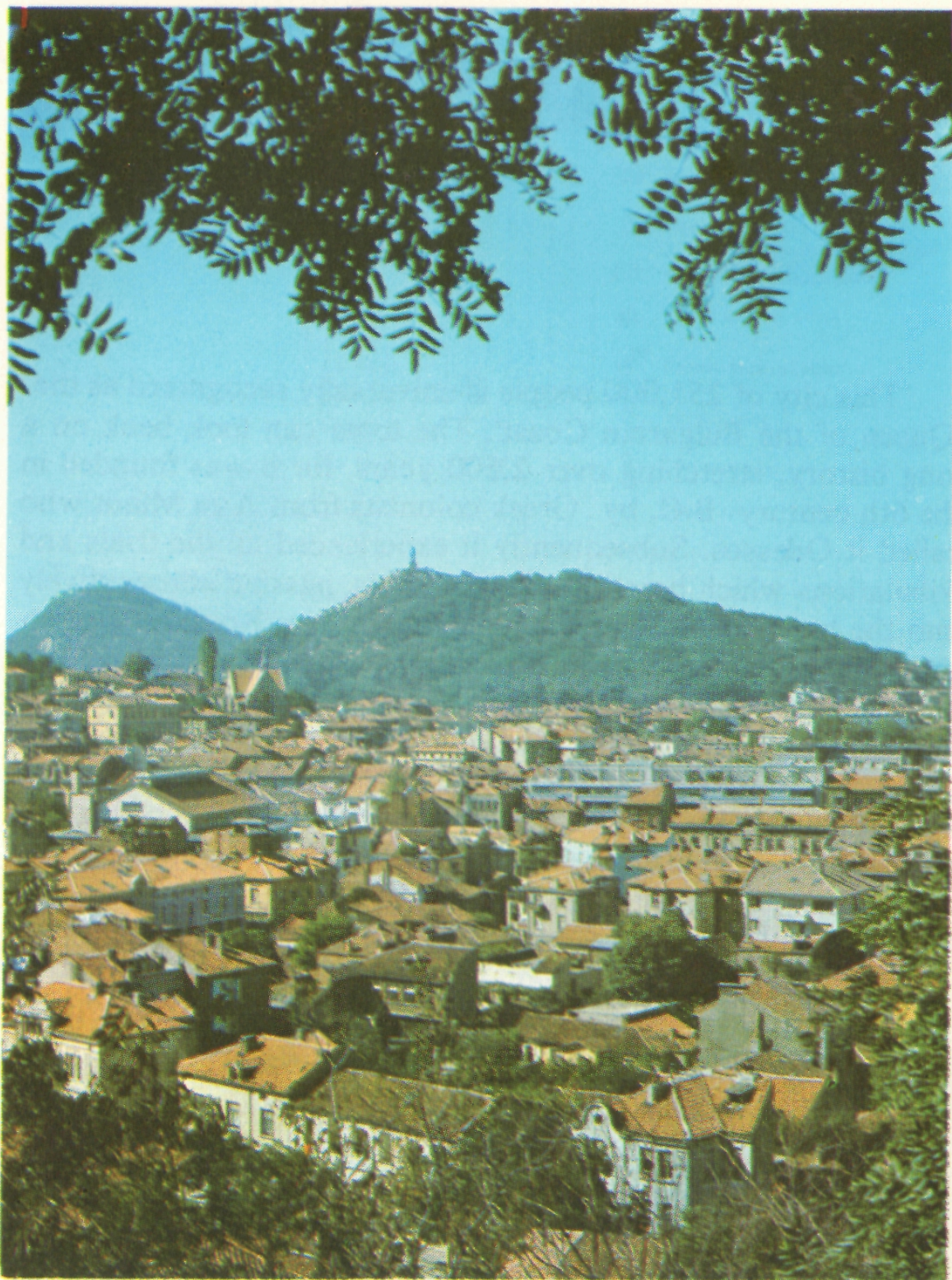
But Plovdiv is not merely a blend of the past and the present. It is also, as you have probably already noticed, a lively rail and road junction. The surroundings, too, abound in places of historic interest, and then there are the nearby Rhodope Mountains.

#### **Sights:**

*Liberators' Hill.* On it there are three monuments: the Monument to Vassil Levski (at the foot of the hill), the Monument to the Liberators, commemorating the Russo-Turkish war (1877-1878), and the Monument to the Soviet Army, which the citizens of Plovdiv affectionately call 'Alyosha'.

*Youth Hill* – to the southwest of Liberators' Hill. It is a beautiful park with wide alleys, picturesque paths, arbours and open spaces.





*Vassil Kolarov Hill* – in the centre of the city. An old clock tower stands on the hill.

*National Archaeological Museum.* On show are more than 15,000 exhibits, among them the priceless Panagyurishtë Gold Treasure.

National Ethnographic Museum, Museum of the Revolutionary Movement, Museum of Socialist Construction, Natural Science Museum, Art Gallery, etc.

Of the Orthodox churches in the city the most interesting are: St Constantine and Helena's Church, the Church of the Virgin Mary and St Marina's Church.

Worth seeing, too, are two mosques: Djoumaya Djamiya and Imaret Djamiya.

The best hotels in Plovdiv are: Trimontium – tel. 2-55-61, Maritsa – 2-27-35, Trakia – 3-24-70, Bulgaria – 2-60-64, and Rhodopes – 2-43-32.

## VARNA













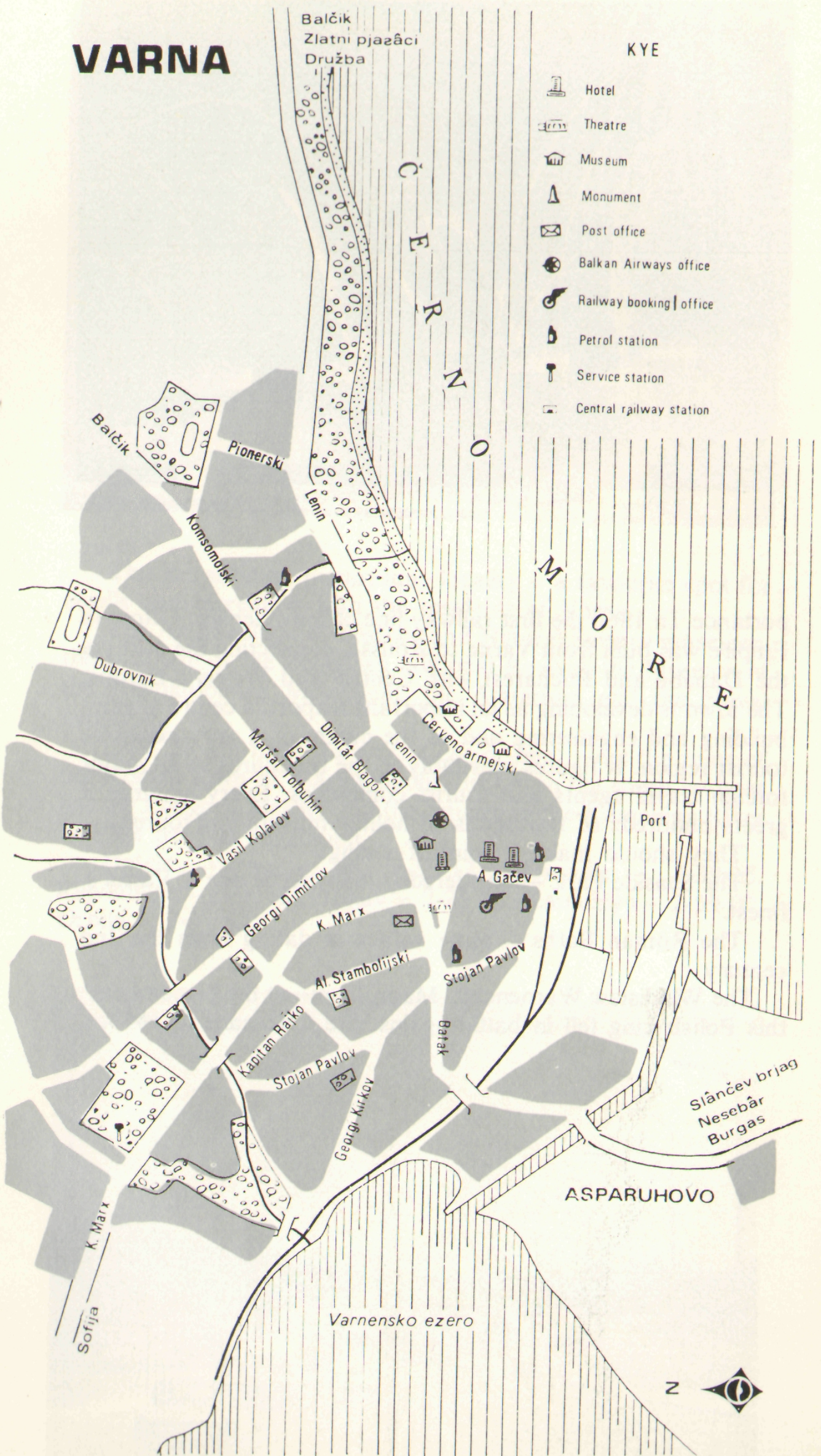
This city of 251,000 people is universally recognized as the 'Queen of the Bulgarian Coast'. The town can look back on a long history, stretching over 2,500 years, for it was founded in the 6th century B.C. by Greek colonists from Asia Minor who called it Odessos. Subsequently it experienced all the trials and tribulations which beset the Balkan lands, passing consecutively into the hands of the Thracians, Macedonians, Romans, Byzantines, not to mention various barbarian tribes that held it for a brief while. In 681 the Bulgarian Khan Asparouh captured it and then it became a Bulgarian town, receiving its present name of Varna. In the days of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (13th-14th centuries) Varna was a brisk commercial centre which, according to reliable historical data, traded with the foremost ports at the time: Constantinople, Genoa, Venice and Ragusa. In the last dying days of Ottoman rule Varna assumed even greater im-

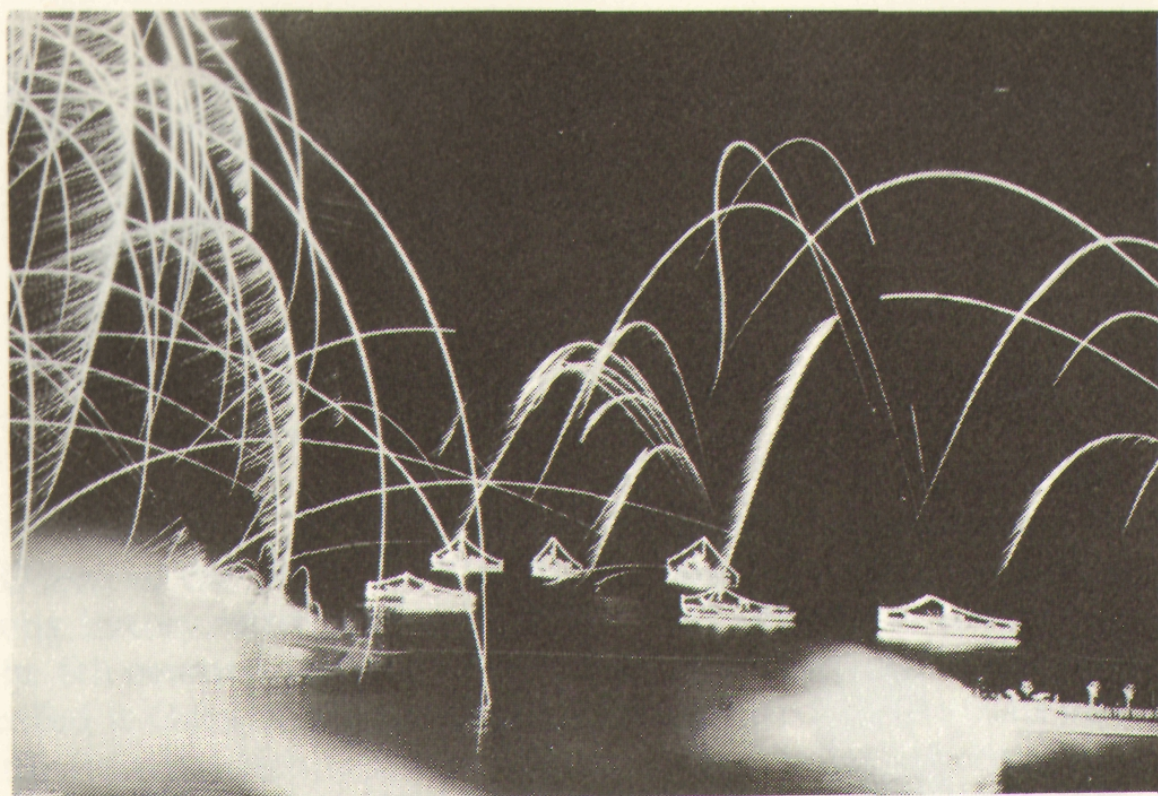


# VARNA

KYE

-  Hotel
-  Theatre
-  Museum
-  Monument
-  Post office
-  Balkan Airways office
-  Railway booking office
-  Petrol station
-  Service station
-  Central railway station





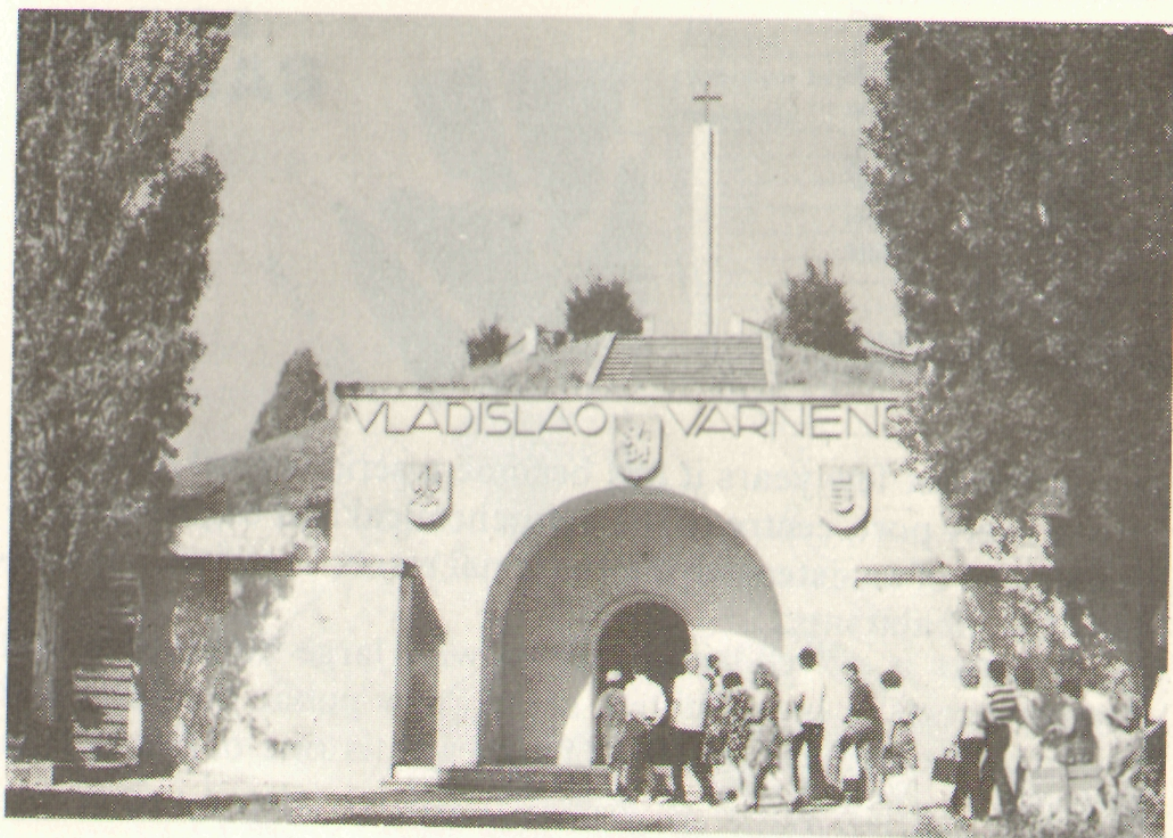
portance. In 1866 the first railway line of the extensive Ottoman Empire was built from Varna to Roussé, connecting the port via the Danube and Bucharest with Central and Western Europe. The town is developing as an important seaport, a centre of ship-building and engineering and as the centre of a very extensive tourist region. It figures inevitably in the brochures of all major foreign travel agents and tourist companies. Every summer it greets hundreds of thousands of holidaymakers and tourists.

They should make a point of seeing:

The Seaside Park – considered by many to be one of Varna's finest.

The Roman Baths – mute witnesses dating from the 2nd century.

The Wladislaw Warnenczik Mausoleum – at the place where this Polish king fell in battle against the Ottomans in 1444.



The Karantinata picturesque locality – a favourite spot for strolls and recreation with the residents of Varna.

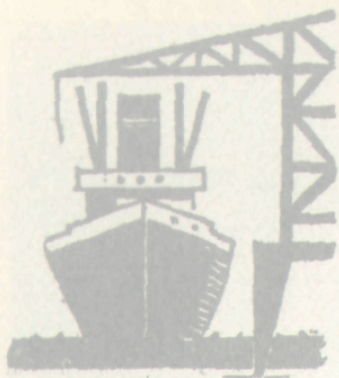
The Archaeological, History and Natural Science museums, the Museum of the Bulgarian National Revival, the Museum of the Revolutionary Movement, the Aquarium and the Naval Museum.

Only 20 km from Varna (by car or bus) – are the ruins of the Roman town of Martianopolis. 30 km to the south by boat lies the Longoza locality and the estuary of the Kamchiya River with its tropical vegetation.

Hotels: Varna – tel. 2-53-12, Moussala – 2-39-25, Repoublika – 2-58-53, Preslav – 2-25-83, Kamchiya – 2-59-07, Orbita – 2-51-62.



## BOURGAS



In the last few years it has become a serious rival of Varna.

A lively port, centre of the petrochemical and engineering industry and of an extensive international resort region. It has 144,000 inhabitants.

Bourgas is a well-laid-out town with large boulevards and straight streets, a beautiful city centre, new public buildings and housing development projects. Its theatre is one of the best in Bulgaria.

### **Sights:**

Bourgas Baths – 16 km west of the town. The curative mineral springs and the modern balneosanatorium attract thousands of guests.

The *Pirgos* Fortress – on the bank of the Mandra Lake. The name of the town is derived from the fortress.

*Bolshevik* Island (former St Anastasia). The monastery church has been preserved where 43 communists were imprisoned after the 1923 Uprising.

From Bourgas one can easily reach Sozopol by ship – a town of artists and fishermen, close to the estuary of the beautiful Ropotamo River, about which many songs have been written.

Hotels in Bourgas: Briz – 229 beds, tel. 4-31-90, Primorets – 236 beds, tel. 4-41-17.



# BURGAS



- Hotel
- Theatre
- Museum
- Monument
- Post office\*

KYE

- Balkan Airways office
- Railway booking office
- Petrol station
- Service station
- Central railway station



## ROUSSE

The largest Bulgarian port on the Danube (160,000 inhabitants). Important railway station on the line connecting the northern countries of Europe with the Near East. An industrial, agricultural and cultural centre of an important region in the country. Although rising where the ancient Roman town of Sexaginta Prista (the city of the 60 ships) stood, it is a relatively new place. The Turks built a new town here, Cherven or Roussé. During the last centuries of their rule the Turks paid great attention to Roussé which was a strategic fortress.

On visiting Roussé, the major sights are the following:

Friendship Bridge – linking across the Danube Roussé with the Romanian town of Giurgiu (Gyurgevo).

The Lipnik National Park and the Prista Fishermen's Hut.











The Ivanovo Rock Monastery (13th century) – 20 km from the town, and the Roman town of Abritus – 65 km from Roussé.

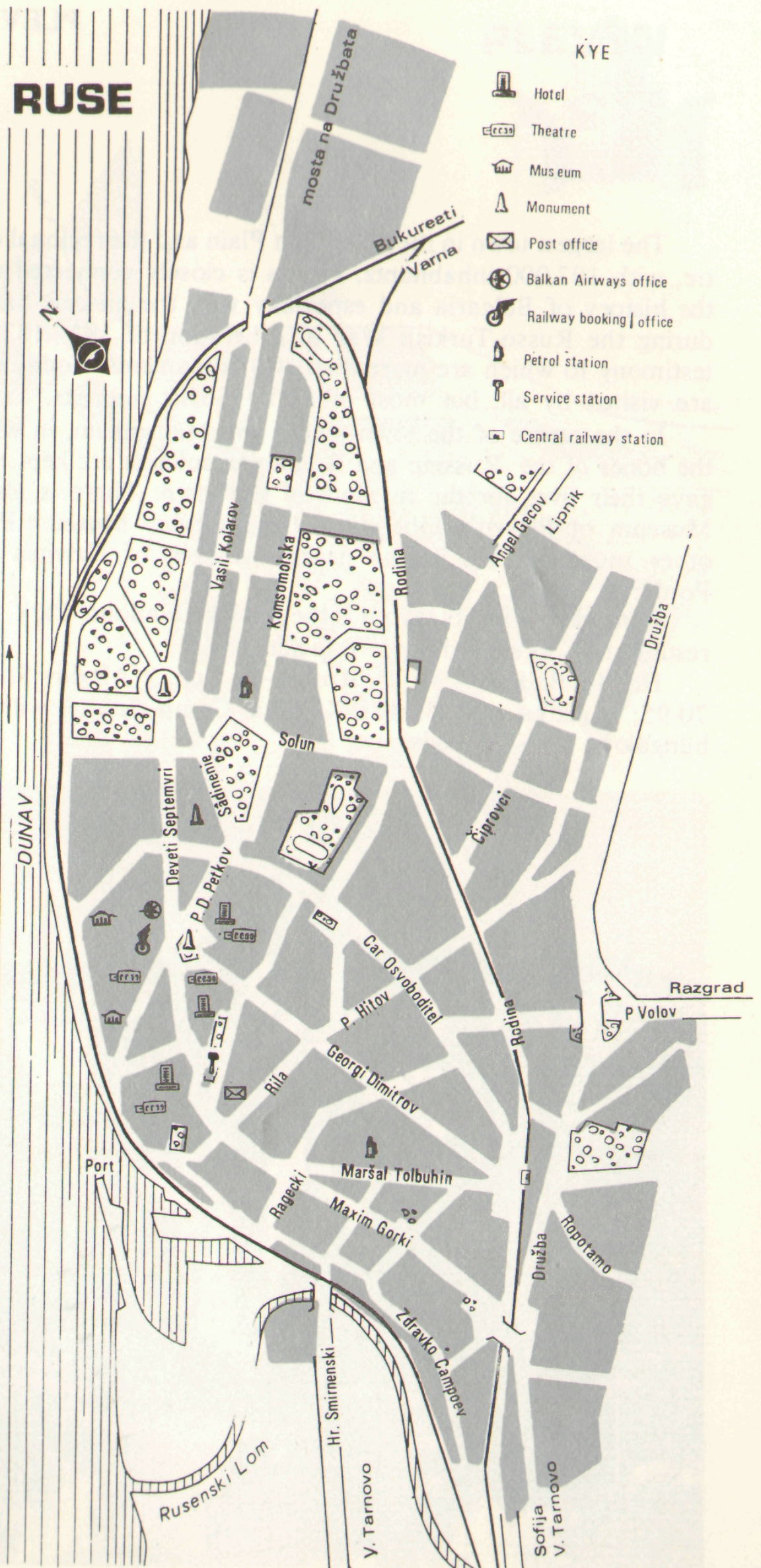
Hotels: Warsaw – tel. 2-40-61, Dounav – 2-67-19, Republica – 2-67-94, Riga.



# RUSE

KYE

-  Hotel
-  Theatre
-  Museum
-  Monument
-  Post office
-  Balkan Airways office
-  Railway booking office
-  Petrol station
-  Service station
-  Central railway station



## PLEVEN



The largest town in the Danubian Plain and the regional centre, with 107,000 inhabitants, Pleven is closely connected with the history of Bulgaria and especially with the historic battles during the Russo-Turkish War of Liberation of 1877-1878, a testimony to which are more than 100 monuments. Today they are visited by all, but most of all by Soviet tourists.

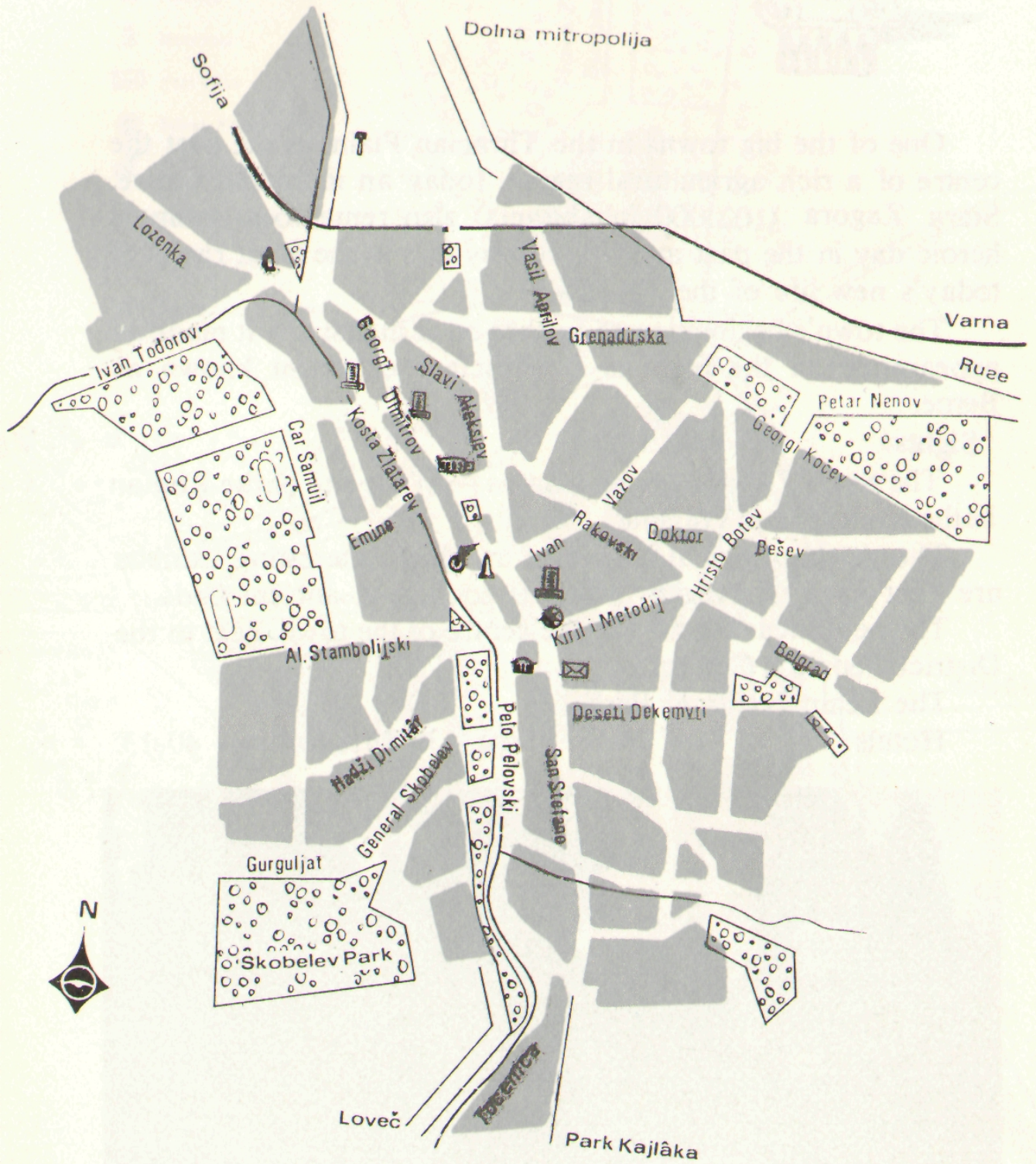
In the centre of the town stands the Mausoleum, in which the bones of the Russian and Romanian soldiers are kept, who gave their lives for the freedom of the town. There is also a Museum of Pleven's Liberation, the Skobelev Museum-Park; other museums are in the nearby villages of Grivitsa and Pordim.

Remarkable for its layout is the Kailuka National Park, with restaurants, lakes and sports facilities.











Hotels: Balkan – 31-10, Rostov-on-Don, 2 Alexiev St., tel. 70-95; Kailuka, tel. 35-15; Kailuka Camp Site – with 20 bungalows with 40 beds.



# PLEVEN



## KYE

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Hotel       |  Balkan Airways office   |
|  Theatre     |  Railway booking office  |
|  Museum      |  Petrol station          |
|  Monument    |  Service station         |
|  Post office |  Central railway station |



One of the big towns in the Thracian Plain, in the past the centre of a rich agricultural region, today an industrial centre. Stara Zagora (102,000 inhabitants) also remembers many a heroic day in the past and that is why it is in the front ranks of today's new life of the country.

The town's beginnings go further back in history. It made its appearance on the map as a Thracian settlement known as Beroe.

### **Sights:**

The Stara Zagora Mineral Baths – on the site of the Roman baths of Augusta Trajana.

The Archaeological Museum, in which interesting exhibits are kept from this region which is so rich in ancient finds.

The new excavations – in the centre of the town, next to the District People's Council.











The Lenin National Park.

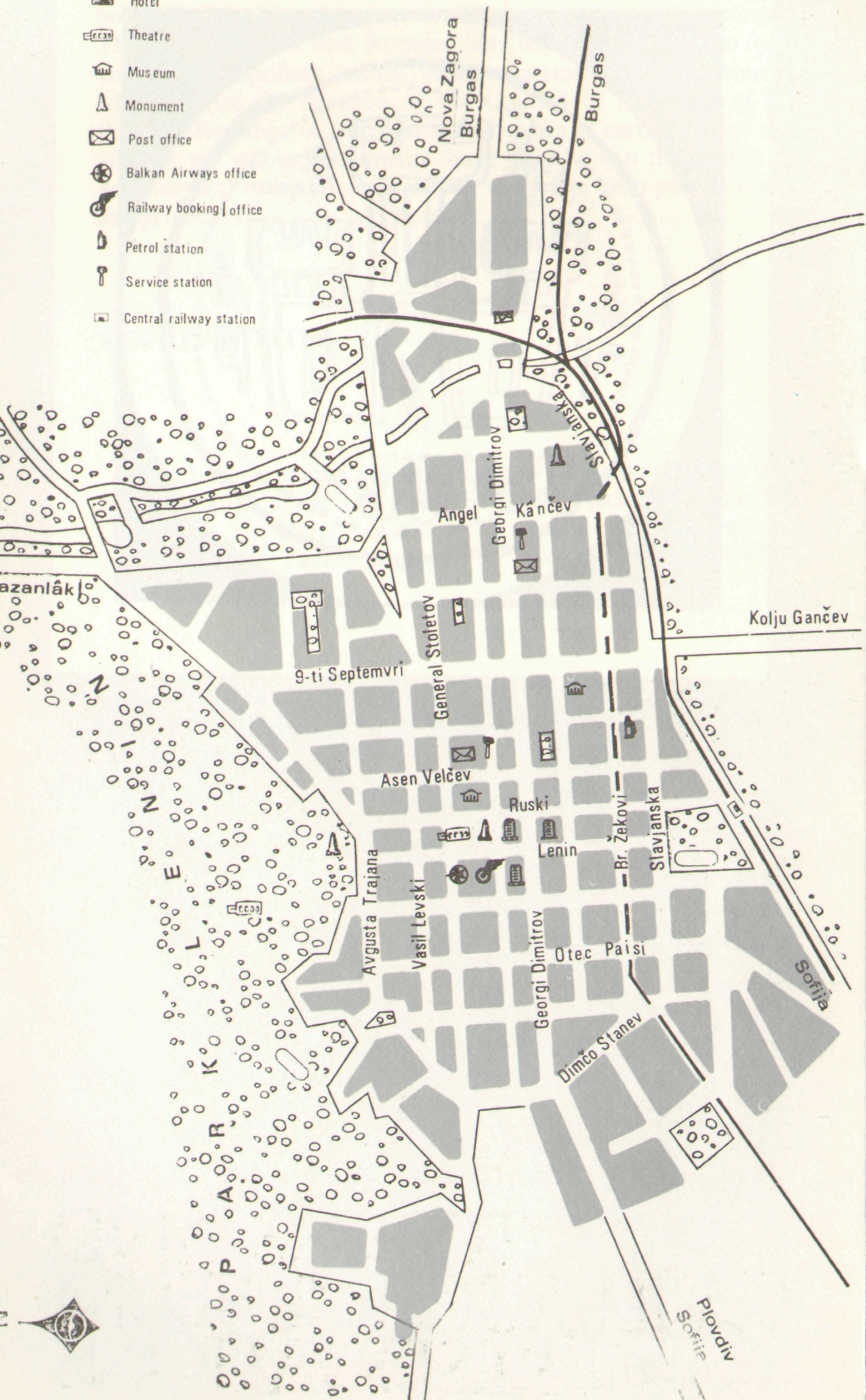
Hotels: Vereya – tel. 28-58, Beroë – 39-48, Moskva – 40-13.



KYE

# STARA ZAGORA

-  Hotel
-  Theatre
-  Museum
-  Monument
-  Post office
-  Balkan Airways office
-  Railway booking office
-  Petrol station
-  Service station
-  Central railway station





TOWNS AND  
VILLAGES-MUSEUM  
RESERVATIONS

Many civilizations flourished on the present territory of Bulgaria through the ages, and vestiges of these cultures have been preserved to this day in different parts of the country: Thracian, Hellenic and Roman, Slav and Proto-Bulgarian fortresses, necropolises, baths, villas, mosaics, churches, houses, whole towns. By decision of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria the old parts of certain towns and villages or whole settlements have been given the status of architectural museum reservations and have been placed under the protection of special organs.

## KOPRIVSHTITSA

The town is situated at an altitude of 1,060 m above sea level on both banks of the Topolnitsa River, in a picturesque garden-like valley. The climate of Koprivshtitsa is one of the healthiest in the country. Tucked away in the folds of the Sredna Gora



Mountains, it is sheltered from the cold northern winds.

Every street, house and even every door in the town recalls the heroic past of the Bulgarian people. Koprivshtitsa is the birthplace of many prominent Bulgarians, fighters against Ottoman domination. It was here that the first shot was fired on April 20, 1876, to mark the outbreak of the April Uprising against the Ottoman Turks. Many historical and architectural monuments from the Bulgarian National Revival period and from the April 1876 Uprising have been preserved. With its spacious and picturesque houses, its typical high walls and wide gates, with its stone fountains and arched bridges, Koprivshtitsa has a unique character and charm all its own.

The oldest architectural monument in the town is the *Pavlikenska House*, which has existed for more than 300 years, witnessing the repeated burnings of the town in the 18th and 19th centuries. Also of great interest is the *Oslekov House*, which has now been turned into a museum. Its original architecture dates from the National Revival period, featuring beautiful woodcarved ceilings and murals. Valuable wood-carvings, embroideries and mural paintings have been preserved in the old houses of *Naiden Gerov*, *Markov*, *Madjarov*, *Mluchkov*, *Stariradev*, *Doganov*, and others. Worth special attention are the houses in which Bulgarian writers, politicians and revolutionaries were born, which have now been transformed into museums: *Lyuben Karavelov*, *Dimcho Debelyanov*, *Todor Kableshev*, *Georgi Benkovski* and *Yako Dorossiev*.

At the spot where on April 20, 1876 the first shot was fired against the oppressors now rises the monument called The First Rifle Shot. On the square is the Mausoleum of the Glorious Dead in the April Uprising. In the Church of the Holy Virgin there is a valuable wood-carved iconostasis. An exquisite wood-carved cross and a hand-written illuminated gospel from 1644 are kept here.

Two and a half hours' walk from the town are the peaks *Bogdan* (1,604 m) and *Bounaya* (1,594 m) in the *Sredna Gora* mountains. A picturesque panoramic road leads to the *Panagyurishtë Colony*. 18 km south-east of Koprivshtitsa in an ancient beech forest is the *Barikadité* locality, closely linked with the anti-fascist partisan struggle in 1942-1944. Next to the monument of the anti-fascist victims rises the first-class *Barikadité Hotel*, with 140 beds, a restaurant and a folk-style room.

The easiest way to get to Koprivshtitsa is along the *Sofia-Bourgas* highway. At the 99th km, beyond the village of *Anton*, the new road to this town branches off. From Koprivshtitsa railway station to the town the distance is 12 km, which the bus covers in 15-20 minutes. In Koprivshtitsa there is a hotel of the same name — 1st-B class, with 60 beds, a restaurant and folk-style room.

## MELNIK

Melnik, one of the smallest towns in Bulgaria, is tucked away in the folds of the south-western Pirin Mountains. In the Middle Ages the Bulgarian boyar Alexi Slav made the town the capital of his principality (1215). From those times dates the prosperity of the town, which during Bulgaria's National Revival (18th and 19th centuries) reached the peak of its cultural and economic development. During the Balkan War (1912-1913), it was burned down. Today it numbers 417 inhabitants.

The most valuable and oldest architectural monument in Melnik is the *Boyar House*, which is in fact the oldest house in Bulgaria, built between the 10th and the 14th centuries. The impressive *Kordopoulo House*, which dominates the whole town, dates from the time of the Bulgarian National Revival period and is a veritable fortress. Its walls are decorated with mural paintings. Deep in its basement there is a huge wine cellar, in which tens of thousands of litres of the famous Melnik wine was kept.

The *Pashova House* today holds the town museum. Many wood carvings and paintings on glass are kept in it. South of Melnik in the Slav Park are the ruins of the old *St Nikola Monastery*, built in the 13th century. Not far away are the ruins of the fortress of the despot Alexi Slav.

Some 5-6 km east of the town is the *Rozhen Monastery*, which was founded in the 14th century. In the church the iconostasis is decorated with exquisite wood carving and there are rare icons and beautiful glass paintings.

Melnik is best reached from the E-20 International Highway from Sofia to Athens. The distance is some 186 km. South of the town of Sandanski, near the village of Delchevo, a road branches off to Melnik, 12 km away.



## KOTEL

As legend has it, Kotel was founded in 1545 by immigrants. It is situated in the eastern folds of the Balkan Range amid wooded hills. It was called Kotel (the Bulgarian for cauldron) because it lies in a valley and the waters of its abundant springs boil as if in a cauldron. Only part of the town has survived the great fire of 1894. This part of the town is now given the status of an architectural historical reservation. The houses which have been preserved reveal the skill of the master-builders from the



*Kotel*



*Old Plovdiv*

time of the Bulgarian National Revival. A *folklore museum* is laid out in one of the old houses, and not far from it, in the building of a school erected in 1869, is the *Historical Museum* of the town. Today in Kotel there is the first school for playing folk instruments, a school for arts and crafts, etc. The weaving of goat hair rugs and of carpets is traditionally a speciality of Kotel.

In the town there is a modern hotel with restaurant, a café and snack bar. In its environs there are game preserves for big game. Kotel can most easily be reached along the Sofia-Bourgas motorway turning off after Sliven at the village of Gorno Alexandrovo; the town is 43 km further on.

## OLD PLOVDIV

Plovdiv is the second largest city in Bulgaria and is situated in a fertile plain. It boasts many industrial enterprises and cultural institutions, but of greater interest for tourists is the old part of the city, called The Three Hills, which has the status of a historical reservation. In Roman times The Three Hills were known as Trimontium. Few cities in Bulgaria possess such pic-

turesque corners, preserved from the National Revival period. On both sides of the cobbled narrow streets rise the tall stone walls of old houses, painted housefronts, bay windows and vaults, eaves curved like yokes, massive wooden gates bound with large iron nails, stone walls and courtyards steeped in grass. Let us mention just a few of the architectural monuments which one should not miss: *The Kouyoumdjioglou House*, in which the Ethnographic Museum is now housed, the *Georgiadi House*, the *Alphonse de Lamartine House*, the *Nedkovich House*, the churches of *St Marina* and *St Nedelya* with iconostases which are veritable masterpieces of the art of wood-carving. The Archaeological Museum contains valuable exhibits from the time of the Thracians, an ancient Hellas, from Roman Trimontium and from ancient Bulgarian culture. The well-known Panagyurishtë Gold Treasure is kept here.

In the city there are several first-class hotels:

Trimontium, Maritsa, Bulgaria and Trakia, with over 1,000 beds in all. *Maritsa Motel* is situated on the E-5 Highway, 9 km west of the city, and *Chaya Camp Site* is 11 km to the east of it.

## ZHERAVNA

Not far from Kotel (about 18 km) in the mountains is situated the well-known village of Zheravna which is renowned as a museum of Bulgarian architecture. Its wooden houses have broad eaves, high stone walls with heavy iron-bound gates. In the street rapid streamlets flow through the grass growing there. The village was founded at the beginning of Ottoman rule – about the 14th century. In the 17th-19th centuries the population's livelihood was stockbreeding, mainly sheepbreeding, and the crafts. The spacious and impressive wooden houses date from that period. The inner walls of the rooms are decorated with wood carvings and are furnished with gaily coloured carpets and tufted rugs.

An exceedingly interesting house dating from the 17th century is the one in which *Sava Filaretov*, a Bulgarian enlightener from the National Revival period, was born. The house has a wide open terrace and a very interesting living room with a wood-carved ceiling, representing the sun. The house in which the great Bulgarian writer Yordan Yovkov was born is in Zheravna. It has been turned into a museum.

To reach Zheravna one takes the road to Kotel and at the 32nd kilometre continues along the sideroad leading to the village, which is 6 km away.

## VELIKO TURNOVO

This is a town in which every corner recalls the glorious past of Bulgaria. A capital of the Second Bulgarian State (1187-1396), the town was surrounded with powerful, tall fortress walls with towers and embrasures which reinforced still further its natural inaccessibility. On *Tsarevets Hill* nowadays stand the ruins of the former royal palaces, fortress walls with tall fighting towers and the once impressive building of the Patriarchate and of several churches; on *Trapezitsa Hill* one can see the ruins of the boyar palaces and of more than 17 mediaeval churches, and on *Sveta Gora Hill* was the famous Turnovo Literary School – it was here that gospels were copied, Bulgarian icon-painters were trained, etc. The old Turnovo houses stand as if perching one above the other on the slopes of the Yantra River, lending the town a unique fascination. Worth visiting is the Archaeological Museum, the Museum of Bulgaria's National Revival, which is housed in the building of Nikoli Han, a building erected by the talented masterbuilder from the National



Revival period, Kolyo Ficheto; and do not fail to peep into the old Church of the Forty Holy Martyrs, where there are unique stone inscriptions from the time of Khan Omourtag, King Ivan Assen and others.

From Veliko Turnovo one can visit the historical village of *Arbanassi*, which is also an architectural museum where the visitor can find several old churches, monasteries and houses. In the *Preobrazhenski* (Transfiguration) Monastery, there are well-preserved frescoes and icons done by the famous Bulgarian icon-painter Zahari Zograph. 18 km north of Veliko Turnovo,



*Veliko Turnovo*



*Bozhentsi*

near the present-day village of Nikyup, lie the ruins of the ancient Roman town of *Nicopolis ad Istrum*.

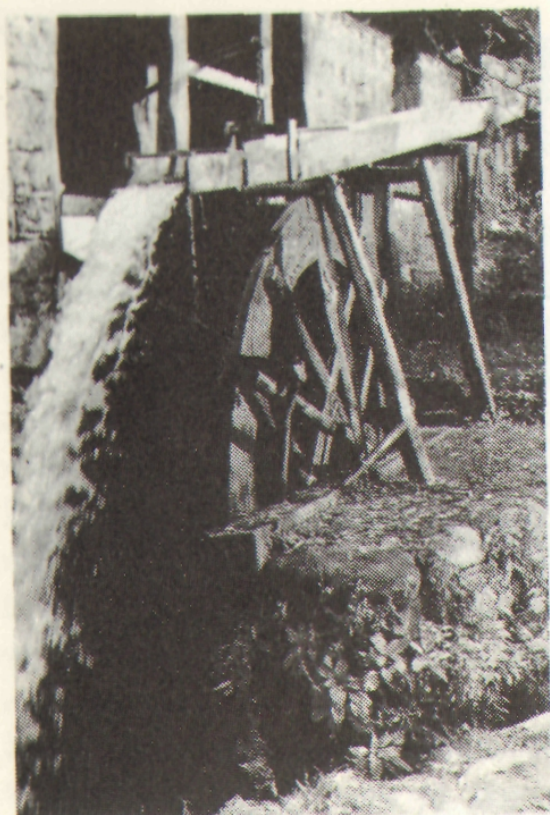
In Veliko Turnovo tourists may stay at the leading hotels Yantra (1st class, 171 beds) with restaurant and Etur (1st class, 243 beds) with restaurant, or Trapezitsa (3rd class with 50 beds), and Orbita (3rd class) with restaurant. At the entrance to the town, coming from Sofia, is the *Bolyarski Stan* Camp Site and on Sveta Gora Hill – a motel of the same name with 100 beds and bungalows for 100 more.

## BOZHENTSI

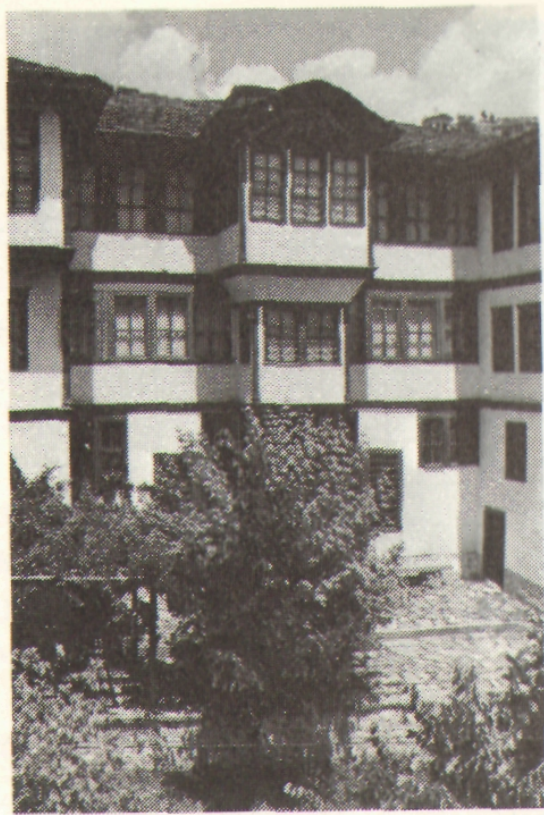
It is a small and picturesque village situated just 17 km to the east of the town of *Gabrovo*. Today it is a historical ethnographic reservation. The village achieved its greatest prosperity in the 18th century when the articles produced by the smiths, carpenters and other craftsmen of Bozhentsi found a ready market in the Ottoman Empire, Austria, Russia and other countries. Then the houses of Bozhentsi began to be built – usually two-storeyed, with spacious wooden verandahs and heavy stone roofs. Inside they were decorated with wood carving done by masters of the Tryavna wood-carving school.

## ETUR

An ethnographic historical reservation and museum, situated on both banks of the Seneka River, 8 km south of the



*Etur*



*Smolyan*

town of *Gabrovo*. Craftsmen's workshops have been restored here, which in the 18th century won Gabrovo the fame of a centre for shoes, wrought-iron articles, earthen-ware vessels, jewellery, wooden articles, etc. A Hungarian traveller justly called the town at that time 'a tremendous workshop'. Today true copies of those old workshops function in Etur, forging knives and bells, turning round wooden bowls, fashioning silver filigree objects, etc.

In Gabrovo the Balkan Hotel (with restaurant) is at your service (1st class). It is run by Balkantourist and has 127 beds; Balkan 295 beds – tel. 26-31; Yantra, 1st class, 321 beds – tel. 23-72.

## SMOLYAN

The highest Bulgarian town – it is at an altitude of 1,010 m above sea level in the Western Rhodope Mountains. In the past it was a small, declining town without a future. During the years of people's rule it has become the natural centre of the region and marked a rapid growth. It was merged with the former villages of Raikovo and Oustovo, which are now parts of it, and its population grew to well over 20,000. Side by side with its economic prosperity, Smolyan also developed as an exceedingly attractive centre of international tourism. Its wonderful scenic beauty and healthy mountain climate helped not only the town, but also its whole district, develop into a resort zone with great potential. Side by side with the already famous resort of Pamporovo, there are many other attractive localities and settlements

here: the Smolyan Lakes, Chepelaré, Progled, Rozhen, the Haidouk Meadows, the Trigrad Walls, Shiroka Luka, the Yagodinski Caves, Momchilovtsi, Manastir and Mogilitza. With the Pamporovo resort, they are all included in the big Rhodope Mountains Resort Complex 'Orphei'.

Of particular interest to tourists are the natural phenomena such as the Rock Bridges, the Trigrad Gorge, the Smolyan Lakes, and the peaks Mourgavets, Snezhanka, Sokolitsa. But the greatest cultural wealth of the town are its old architectural monuments, preserved first of all in the Raikovo and Oustovo town districts as well as in the village of Shiroka Luka – the most original village in the Rhodope Mountains. A veritable architectural masterpiece is the Pangalova House in Raikovo district, housing the District Ethnographic Museum. Another remarkable architectural monument is the only feudal ensemble in our country – the Agoushev House in Mogilitza village.

Hotels: Sokolitsa (with restaurant), Lenin Street, tel. 30-85; Orphei (with restaurant), Lenin Blvd, tel. 20-41; the hotel and restaurant at the Smolyan Lakes, tel. 27-72; a bar and tavern, Lenin Blvd, tel. 23-95.

## POMORIE

Situated on a narrow rocky peninsula 22 km northeast of Bourgas, the town was founded as early as the 4th century B.C. under the name of Anchialo by emigrants from Apollonia (present-day Sozopol). All the wooden buildings were destroyed by a fire in 1906. A small corner in National Revival style architecture has been preserved in the eastern part of the town, next to the breakwater. Of particular interest, however, is the tomb near Pomorié which is 8 m high with a diameter at the base of the mound of 60 m. The tomb in Pomorié represents an original combination of the Thracian custom to put domed burial tombs under an earth mound and of the style of the Roman mausoleum. The tomb has been fully restored and was opened to visitors in 1959. To the west of present-day Pomorié the remains of an ancient settlement have been discovered, destroyed by the Avars in the 6th century.

## SOZOPOL

Sozopol is one of the oldest towns on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. It was founded in the 7th century B.C. by Greek colonists from the town of Miletus. At that time the houses in the town were built of impressive stone blocks and above them rose the famous statue by the Greek sculptor Calamis of Apollo,



after whom the town was named – Apollonia. In the year 72 A.D. the Roman general Marcus Lucullus broke the resistance of the Thracian tribes and captured the town, and the famous statue of Apollo was taken as a trophy to Rome.

The narrow cobbled streets of the town, the bay-windows of the houses, their broad overhanging eaves and wooden facings of the walls lend it a special charm, which today attracts throngs of tourists. It is a favourite haunt of artists and it has justly won the fame of being a town of artists and fishermen. Worth a visit is the museum, the church dating from the 18th century and the entire old part of the town, which has the status of a historical reservation.

In the town there is a hotel with 80 beds, and in its environs several camp sites: Chernomorets – with accommodation for 1,200; Zlatna Ribka – for 600, Harmanité – for 500, Gradina – for 900, Topolitë – for 500.

## **NESSEBUR**

A veritable fairy-tale of a town, as it is often called by tourists. Founded by settlers from Miletus as Mesembria, it was subsequently captured by the Romans and gradually declined. Around the 7th and 8th centuries it began to be called Nessebur – a name given to it by Slav tribes. Today Nessebur is a historical reservation and a national museum town typical for its wooden houses with stone foundations, narrow and crooked cobbled streets, small courtyards full of fig trees and vine ar-



bours. This is unusual in itself, but its citizens do not take such pride in these features as they do in their old churches, the remains from remote antiquity, the Byzantine period and the Middle Ages.

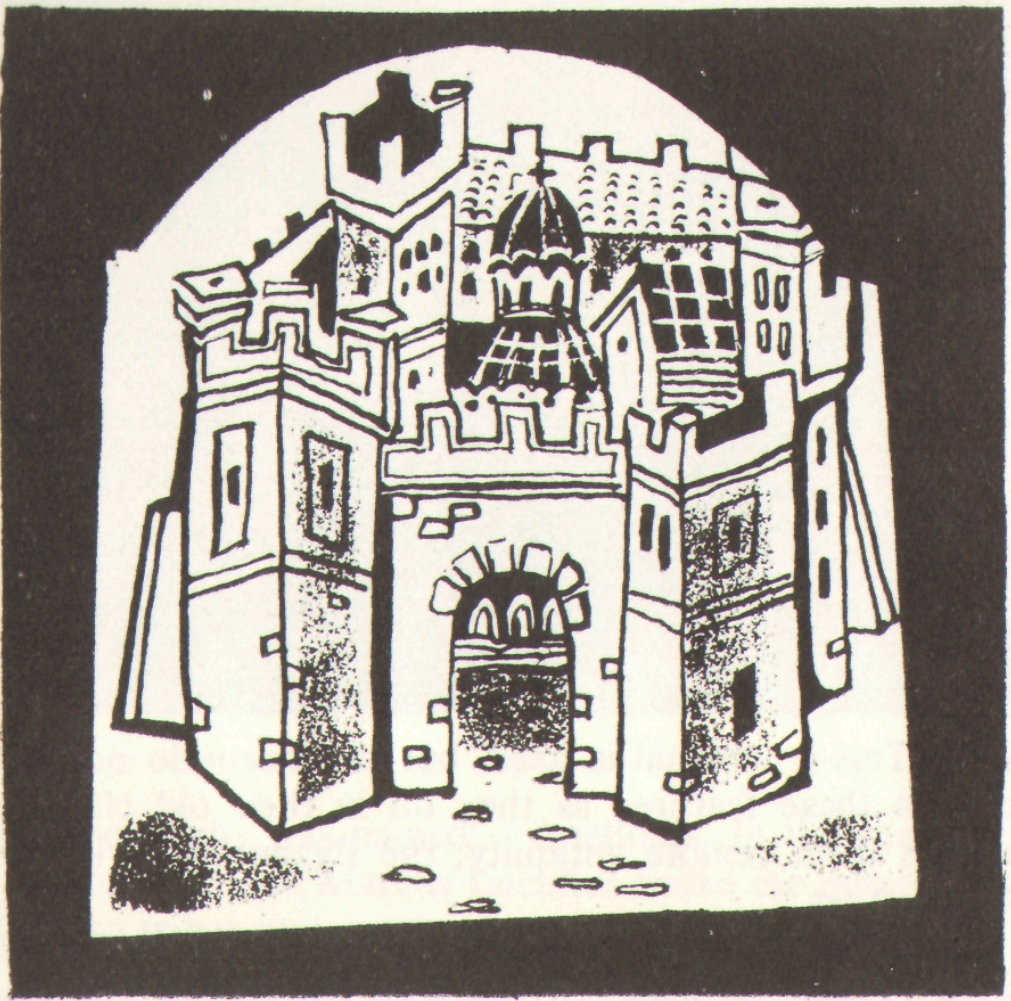
Finds of coins, of grey-black Thracian ceramic articles, of Greek ceramic articles covered with red glazing and drawings from Greek mythology, Thracian helmets etc., date from the Thracian and Hellenic periods. Tombstones with interesting inscriptions and coins have been preserved from the Roman period. It is most likely that the western fortress wall also dates from that period.

The ruins of the powerful fortress wall date from the early Byzantine period. It was built of stone, brick and mortar mixed with crushed bricks and tiles. Best preserved are the remains of the fortress near the port and at the entrance of the town.

A great treasure of Nessebur are its old churches. The oldest among them were most probably built in the 5th and 6th centuries. Among them are the *Old Metropolitan Church* and the Basilica near the shore. The churches of *St John the Baptist* and of *St Stephen* date from the 10th and 11th centuries. The greatest number of churches feature the so-called 'pictorial style' and they were built during the Second Bulgarian Kingdom. To these belong the Church of the Holy Archangels Gabriel and Michael, that of Christ Pantokrator, that of St John Aliturgetos, St Parashkeva and St Theodore.

In the town there is a permanent museum exhibition called 'Nessebur Through the Ages' in the St John the Baptist Church.

In the Ethnographic Museum the visitor will see a small collection of national costumes, and in the Museum of the Revolutionary Movement are exhibits that will acquaint him with the anti-fascist struggle in this part of the country.



# HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND NATURAL SIGHTS

## RILA MONASTERY

It is the most impressive architectural and historical monument in Bulgaria from the Bulgarian National Revival period, founded by the hermit Ivan of Rila in the 10th century after the adoption of the Christian religion by the Bulgarians. Far from the major roads, the monastery preserved the rights granted to it by the Bulgarian kings and repeatedly reaffirmed by the sultans. At the end of the 18th century, however, began the onslaughts of the Kurdjalis. The monastery was destroyed to be restored later, in the first half of the 19th century. Situated at an altitude of 1,147 m above sea level, it occupies an area of 32,000 sq m and is surrounded with stone walls up to 2 m thick and up to 24 m high.

One of the best preserved architectural monuments of the monastery complex is Hreljo's Tower, which was built in 1335. It is 23 m high. On the fourth floor there was a small church, in which valuable mural paintings have been preserved, dating from the 14th century. The monastery church rises in the centre of the yard, the inner and outer decoration of which is the work of wood-carvers from the Samokov, Debur and Razlog schools, and the mural paintings were created by the talented Bulgarian icon-painter Zahari Zograph.





Interesting are the guest rooms of the monastery, furnished by different towns and villages in the country and bearing their respective names: that of Koprivshtitsa, that of Pazardjik, etc. The Refectory is a rare piece of architecture with its hearths, arcades and vaults. In the monastery library there are more than 16,000 books, including many unique ones, scores of old printed books, gospels and lives of saints in beautiful bindings. In the museum there are old parchments, icons, Hrelyo's throne and the old door of Hrelyo's Church – the work of talented wood-carvers of the 14th century. Of equally great interest is a cross – a crucifixion – which was made by Monk Raphael. The monk devoted 12 years of his life to making the cross, in the course of which he lost his sight, but the 140 biblical scenes incorporating more than 1,500 human figures arouse the admiration of visitors even today. On show in the ethnographic section of the museum are various objects and costumes, given as gifts by pilgrims from all parts of the peninsula.

Near the monastery there is an attractive restaurant run by Balkantourist (3rd class), which is open day and night. The Rila Monastery Camp Site and the Bor Camp Site can accommodate a total of 270 people.

Interesting excursions can be made from the monastery to the Partisan Meadow locality at the foot of the peaks Dvouglov and Iglata. A two hours' walk leads to Brichebor Peak, a five hours' walk – to the Dry Lake, and a six hours' walk – to the Ribni Ezera (Fish Lakes).

The Rila Monastery is 123 km from Sofia. It is reached via the international highway leading to Athens; at Kocherinovo village a turning leads through the valley of the Rilska River to the monastery.



## BACHKOVO MONASTERY

The second largest monastery in Bulgaria after the Rila Monastery. It was founded in 1083 by the Georgian Grigoriy Bacuriani and has been reconstructed several times. The only building which has come down to us from the time of its foundation is the two-storeyed church and ossuary. The murals of the church are a unique monument of Byzantine art from the period of the Comnenus dynasty.

The central church was erected in the 17th century, during the Ottoman rule. At the beginning of the 19th century the monastery was extended and one more church was built, the murals of which were painted by Zahari Zograph.

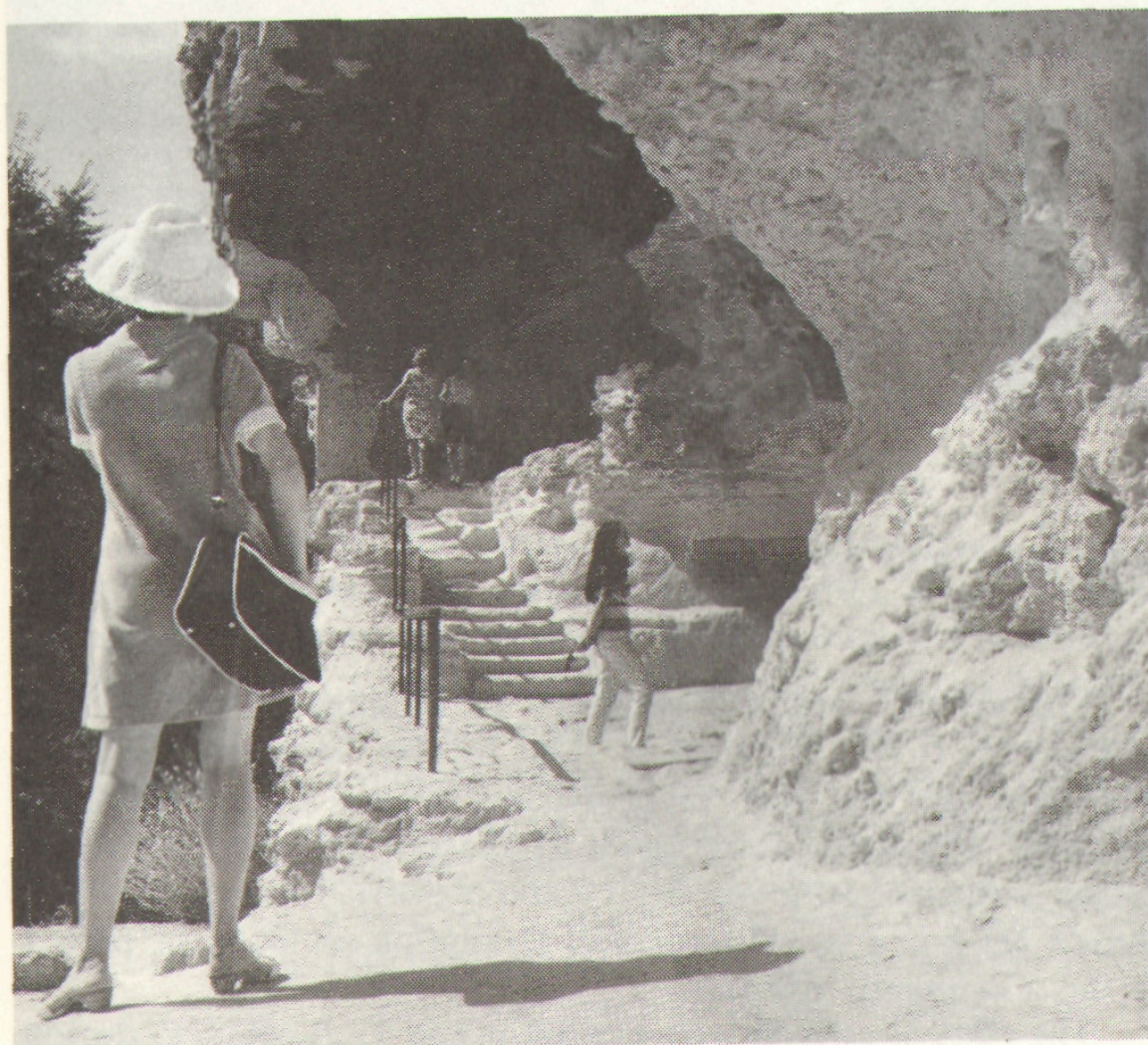
The monastery lies south of Plovdiv and can be reached by a modern, partly paved and partly asphalted road (some 30 km). The road goes on further south as far as Pamprovo.

## TROYAN MONASTERY

It is situated in the folds of the Balkan Range, some 12 km from the town of Troyan. It was built in the year 1840. The frescoes in its church were painted by the best icon-painters of the Samokov School, including Zahari Zograph. Tourist accommodation is available in the monastery.

## ALADJA MONASTERY

It stands 14 km northeast of Varna and 3 km west of the Zlatni Pyassatsi resort complex, in one of the most picturesque areas of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. It is an old monastery



carved out of the rocks, consisting of an upper and a lower part. The cells are two and a half metres wide and two metres deep. The length of the church is 11.70 m and its width – 5 m. It is barely 2 m high. On the eastern wall is the altar, in which there are two niches with the comparatively best-preserved mural paintings. Although poorly preserved in general, the murals of the monastery reveal a remarkable development of mediaeval pictorial art. The monastery was most probably founded in the 13th-14th century. 300 m from the monastery are the catacombs – rooms carved out of the rock which were probably used by the monks as dwellings.

The monastery can be reached from Zlatni Pyassatsi on foot along a forest path, or by bus along a panoramic road. From there the road goes on to Varna via Vinitsa village. There are souvenir shops and pavilions for snacks and drinks as well as a fountain.

## ZEMEN MONASTERY

It is situated 25 km from Kyustendil on the railway line to Sofia, and is well known for its fine mural paintings dating from the middle of the 14th century. They are very well preserved and among the frescoes which are portraits of contemporaries are those of Deyan, a feudal lord of Kyustendil, and of his wife Doya, patrons of the monastery.

One can travel to the monastery by train as well as by car from Kyustendil or Sofia.

## BOYANA CHURCH

At the foot of Mount Vitosha and 10 km from Sofia, stands a unique monument of Bulgarian art – the small Boyana Church, built in the 11th and 13th centuries. Exceptional mural paintings have been preserved in it in an excellent condition. The unknown Boyana master has succeeded in expressing character traits on the faces of more than 300 large and small human figures, harmoniously distributed in two small compartments. He went beyond the conventionality of the period and became a precursor of the European Renaissance.



## KAZANLUK THRACIAN TOMB

A unique monument of ancient Thracian art. It is thought that in the 4th century a prominent but now unknown Thracian



chieftain was buried in the tomb, which consists of an antechamber, stone corridor and a domed chamber. The exceptional frescoes on the walls, ceiling, corridor walls and on the dome make this monument truly unique. It has been placed under the protection of UNESCO.

## MADARA HORSEMAN

A fine bas relief, carved at a height of 23 m in the rocks of the ancient Madara Fortress, near the town of Shoumen. The talented master from the period of the First Bulgarian Kingdom has created a true masterpiece, representing a horseman holding the bridles of the horse in one hand and a lance in the other, stuck into the back of a dying lioness. This scene most probably depicts some victory of one of the Khans Tervel, Kormisosh or Omourtag.

## PLISKA AND PRES LAV

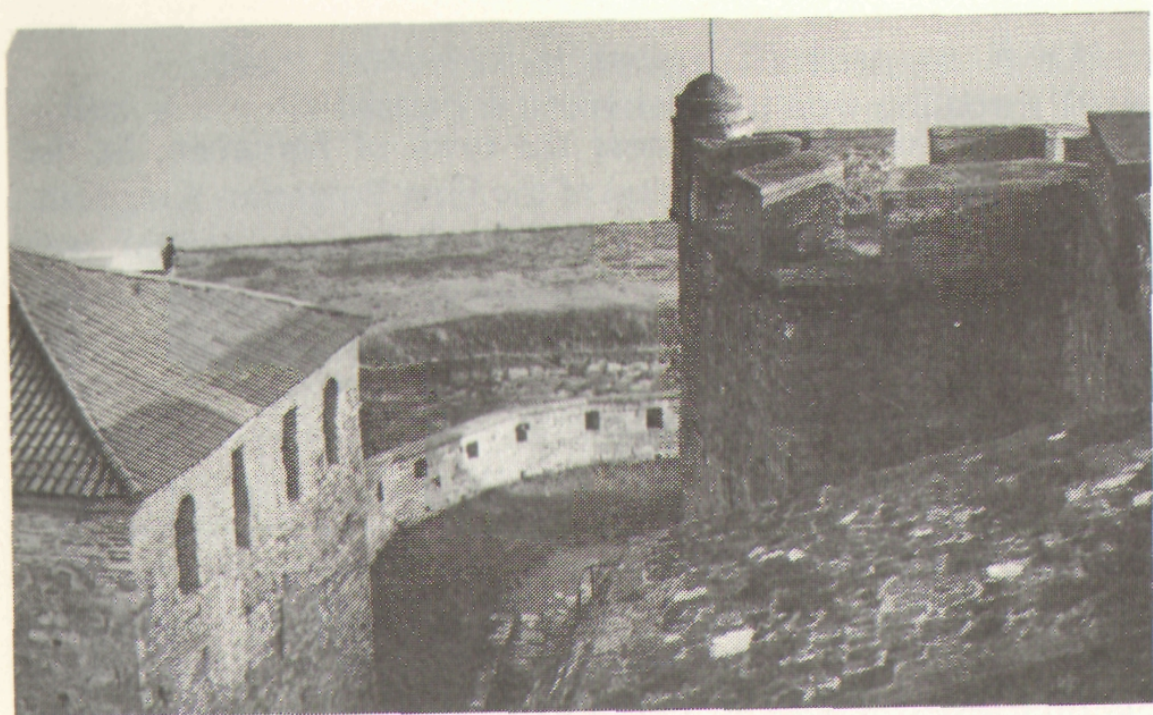
Six km from Madara, near the town of Shoumen, lie the ruins of Pliska – the first capital of the First Bulgarian Kingdom.

These ruins show that the first Bulgarian capital was protected by a double line of fortifications – an earth embankment with a moat on the outside and an 8-foot stone wall on the inside. In turn, the wall was protected by round and pentagonal turret-battlements, with which the city gates, too, were equipped. The streets all led to the centre, where ruins of the palace, the throne hall and other buildings (temples, feudal residences, etc) were uncovered. In the outer town lying between the two fortification systems, were the barracks, workshops, stables and probably also the wooden dwellings of soldiers and commoners. The first constructions in Pliska date back to the late 7th century, while the palaces are presumed to have been built under the reign of Omourtag (816-831). Various objects, ornaments, weapons and the like, which are on exhibit in the small museum, give an idea of the mode of life in those days. A special lapidarium has been built during the excavation work.

Bulgaria's second capital, *Preslav* (893-972), is associated with the Golden Age of Bulgaria and hence is much more sumptuous and brilliant than the more primitive Pliska.

*Preslav* – 19 km south of Shoumen, founded by Khan Omourtag, it rapidly surpassed the glory of Pliska. This much can be deduced from the remaining ruins (in the course of their invasions the Turks destroyed Preslav down to its foundations), as well as from the chronicles of its contemporary Yoan Exarch (John the Exarch), one of the first Bulgarian writers. Not far from the old Preslav are the remains of *Patleina Monastery*, where the Bulgarian Prince Boris I spent his last days. King Simeon made it his shining capital, a fact which is revealed by the preserved foundations of the royal palace and the so-called Golden Church, decorated with marble and gaily-coloured ceramics, the work of Preslav masters. Very interesting and valuable exhibits are displayed in the halls of the Archaeological Museum.

## BABA VIDA FORTRESS



near the town of Vidin. One of the oldest Bulgarian towns, the successor of the Roman Bononia Vidin is today, as it was in the past, an important commercial centre and port. It is the centre of a rich viticultural region (you might just as well miss the place altogether if you don't taste the Vidin Gumza wine). There is still another thing without which we can't visualize Vidin: the mediaeval *Baba Vida's Fortress or Towers*. On the occasion of Shakespeare's 400th anniversary, a 'Shakespearade' was held in this mediaeval setting in which several Bulgarian theatre companies staged Shakespearean plays, using the walls and towers of the old fortress as a fitting decor.

Historically Baba Vida is associated with Pazvantoglou, a despot of the late 18th century and yet a man who had the good idea of replacing the crescent on his mosque with a ... heart! Built in the 10th century by the Bulgarians over the remains of the north-eastern part of the Roman wall, the fortress took on its final appearance in the 12th-14th centuries. For the last time it was reconstructed in the 17th and 18th centuries. With its impressive towers and embrasures and with its museum of mediaeval weapons, the fortress represents an interesting tourist sight which attracts visitors from many countries.

What else can you see in Vidin: a park of rare beauty, a museum, and the murals of the *St. Panteleimon* and *St. Petka Churches*. The town has its own theatre, amateur opera and orchestra. Vidin is connected by ferryboat with the Romanian town of Kalafat, and there are five roads and highways and one railway line leading to Sofia.

## SHIPKA PASS AND MOUNT STOLETOV



Twelve kilometres from the town of Kazanluk, at the foot of the Balkan Range, rise the gilt domes of a splendid memorial church built to the memory of the soldiers who gave their life in the Russo-Turkish War of Liberation of 1877-1878. From here a good road leads to Mount Stoletov and to the granite monument which recalls to the coming generations the heroic deeds of the handful of Russian and Bulgarian defenders of the Shipka Pass against the army of Syuleiman Pasha, which numbered 35,000. The monument is 51 m tall and on its front side stands the sculpted figure of a lion, representing the Bulgarian people.

## BELOGRADCHIK ROCKS

A unique freak of nature, this labyrinth of quaint rock formations is situated near the town of Belogradchik. For millions of years nature has worked to sculpt in the red limestone a wonderful world of figures, such as 'Adam and Eve', 'The



Schoolgirl', 'The Madonna', 'The Monks'... . At their foot lie the stone walls of the Belogradchik Fortress, which in its present form was completed in the 19th century on the foundations of a very old fortress (4th-6th and 13th-14th centuries).

In Belogradchik there is a Balkantourist hotel with



restaurant, and nearby is the Madonna Camp Site. The town lies at the 162nd km of the road Sofia-Vidin, 52 km from Vidin and 67 km from Mihailovgrad. 28 km from the town is the well-known Rabisha Cave.

## VALLEY OF ROSES

Unique in Europe and famous throughout the world, the Valley of Roses in the heart of Bulgaria is visited every year by thousands upon thousands of tourists. The best time to visit it is the end of May and the beginning of June, when the roses are in bloom and fill every garden with their fragrance, and you see boundless rose plantations. In the picturesque village of Rozino and the towns of Sopot, Karlovo, Kalofer and Kazanluk visitors will also be able to visit interesting historical and architectural monuments: the house in which the Bulgarian writer Ivan Vazov was born, that of the apostle of Bulgarian freedom Vassil Levski, as well as that of the prominent Bulgarian poet and revolutionary Hristo Botev — all now museums.

You can reach the Rose Valley by train or, better yet, by car along the wonderful asphalt highway which reveals ever new splendid views, the one more impressive than the other. Moreover, this happens to be the shortest route from Sofia to the Black Sea: 254 miles.



## RABISHA CAVE

hidden in a hill and near a lake, both of the same name. The most interesting part of the cave is its niche with original paintings on the rocks, made with guano and dating from nearly 1,000 B.C. The paintings represent scenes from the life of primitive man, figures of animals, dancing women, hunting scenes, etc. The galleries of the cave that have been investigated extend more than 2,300 m. Next to the entrance of the cave there is a hotel and a camp site. Noteworthy for its varied formations and its ingenious illumination is also the *Ledenika Cave* near the town of Vratsa.

## THE STONE FOREST

The Stone Forest, also called Pobiti Kamuni, near Varna is a fantastic sight: stone tree trunks without leaves and branches, reaching up to the height of 5 m. It is believed that they were formed as a result of the action of the wind, water and sand, which carried away the softer rocks, leaving harder ones to stick out of the ground to this day. It lies beside the Sofia-Varna highway.



CULTURAL  
MONUMENTS  
IN BULGARIA

## PREHISTORIC

Among the objects preserved to our days are zoomorphic ceramic vessels, clay models of prehistoric dwellings, primitive figures of gods standing far apart from the later figures of the gods resembling man, figures of animals, etc. Worth seeing in this connection are in the first place the paintings in the Rabisha Cave and idols from the Neolithic and Aeneolithic Age made of bones and of baked clay, clay vessels, anthropomorphic vessels, etc. in the archaeological museums of Sofia and the larger towns in the country.

## THRACIAN

Thracians inhabited the eastern half of the Balkan Peninsula. We owe our first information about them to Homer, who describes them in the Iliad as allies of the Trojan King Priam. But they are not the aboriginal inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula. They gradually merged with the local population and lent a Nordic culture to its population to such a degree that in the last periods of the Bronze Age the culture of the Thracians can in fact be considered as part of the culture of the European conti-



nent. A great number (16) of Thracian tombs have now been excavated in Bulgaria, which give us information about the life and art of the ancient Thracians. Among them are: the big tomb near the village of Mezek, not far from Svilengrad, the Kazanluk Tomb, the Vratsa Tomb, etc. Of particularly great interest are the Vulchitrun Gold Treasure in the Sofia Archaeological Museum, the Panagyurishtë Gold Treasure in the Plovdiv Museum, a copy of which is kept in the crypt of the Alexander Nevsky Memorial Cathedral in Sofia, the Vratsa Treasure, the recently excavated Yakimovo Treasure and individual objects on display in the different museums in the country. An exceedingly valuable monument are the mural paintings of the Kazanluk Thracian Tomb, a copy of which is also kept in the crypt.

## PROTO-BULGARIAN

First we must mention here the capital cities of the First Bulgarian State (681-1018) – Pliska and Preslav. Ruins of churches, palaces and fortress walls and stone inscriptions have been preserved from them especially valuable are Omourtag's column, the column of Ivan Assen II, the inscription of the Chagurbil Mostich). Then come the Madara Horseman rock relief with an inscription, and remains of buildings and fortresses near the town of Shoumen; the Bachkovo Monastery, founded in the 11th century, Veliko Turnovo – with ruins of palaces, churches, fortress walls and monasteries from the capital of the Second Bulgarian State (1185-1396); the Boyana Church – with murals of great artistic value; the Zemen Monastery with frescoes dating from the second half of the 14th century; the Dragalevtsi Monastery – with murals from the 15th century, the church in the village of Berendé – with murals from the second half of the 14th century; Nessebur and its churches with interesting architecture and decorations, the Church of the Holy Virgin in Pazardjik, the Church of St Marina in Plovdiv, the Rila Monastery – with its wood carving, icons and ethnographic collections.

## ANCIENT

Bulgaria is one of the countries where ancient art – the art of the Greeks and Romans, has left many works and exercised a powerful impact on the local inhabitants – the ancient Thracians. Important centres of ancient and more particularly of Hellenic culture were the settlements of the Greeks from Miletus on the Black Sea coast: Apollonia (today Sozopol), Mesembria (today Nessebur), etc. Let us mention but a few finds: a burial stele, found in Sozopol (Bourgas Museum), an archaic statue of a young man from Shapli Deré, a burial stele of Calicritus, a statue of Pan, a statue of Eros by Praxiteles, a head of Heracles, a head of Apollo, a bronze statuette of Athena, a bronze statuette of Apollo (all in Sofia Archaeological Museum); a bronze head from Vidin (Vidin Museum), head of Emperor Gordian (238-244) (Archaeological Museum, Sofia), a sarcophagus from the village of Archar (Archaeological Museum, Sofia), relief of the eastern deity Mythra (Archaeological Museum, Plovdiv), relief depicting circus shows (Archaeological Museum, Sofia).

Of great interest are the remains of ancient Roman fortresses and towns, scattered over almost all the country: Oescus on the Danube – an ancient town near Pleven, Nicopolis ad Istrum – ruins of an ancient Roman town near Veliko Turnovo, the Church of St George in Sofia, Trimontium in Plovdiv, Hissar – the ancient town of Augusta, where the fortress walls of the ancient town have remained to this day, the tomb in Silistra – with well preserved Roman mosaics, villas in the district of Sofia, near the town of Ivailovgrad, etc.

## HISTORICAL RESERVATIONS

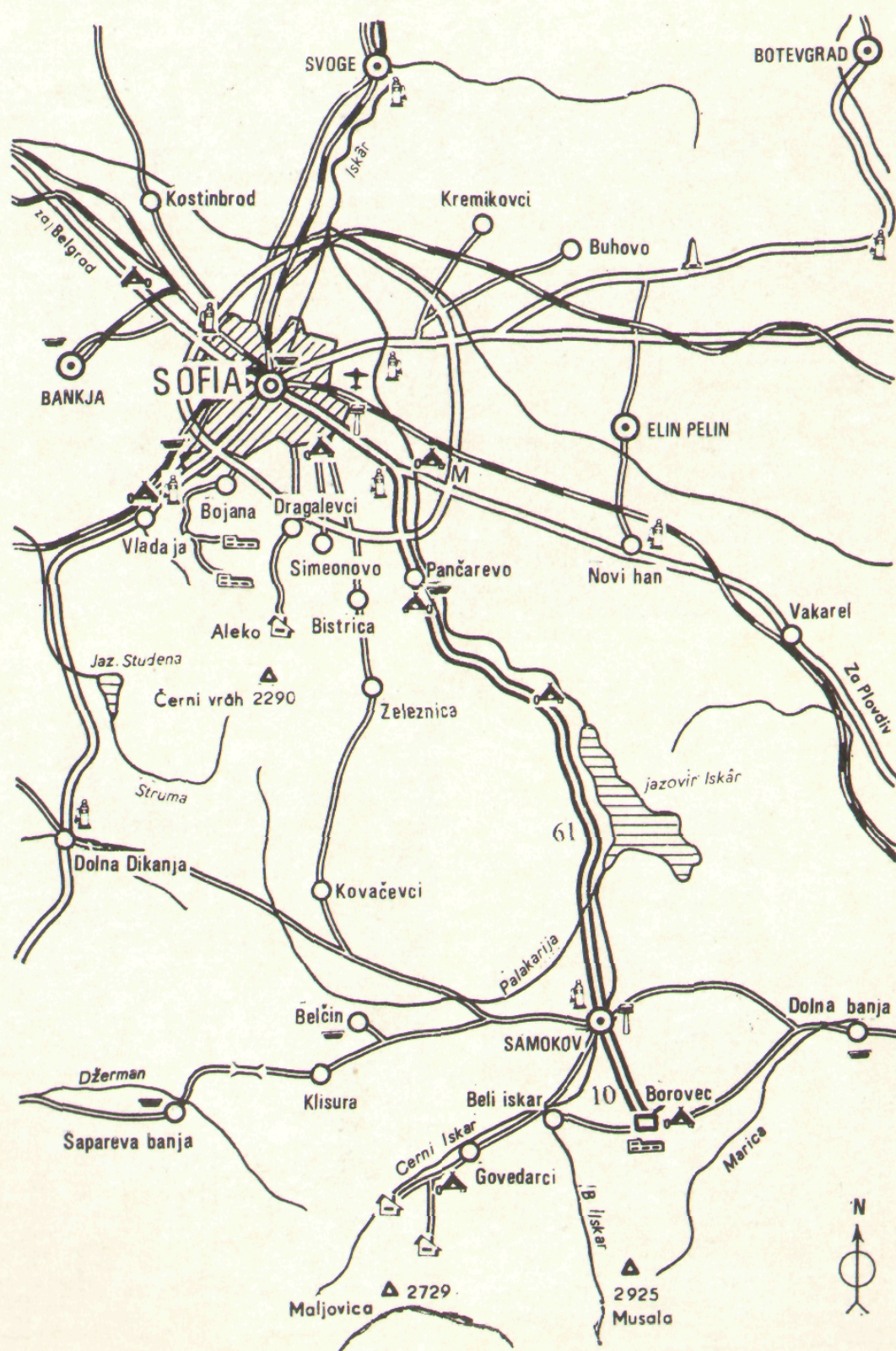
of the architecture of the Bulgarian National Revival period: Koprivshtitsa, Zheravna, Arbanassi, Kotel, Bozhentsi, Etura, the old parts of Plovdiv, Veliko Turnovo, Elena, Karlovo, Tryavna, etc.



SOME TOURING  
ROUTES

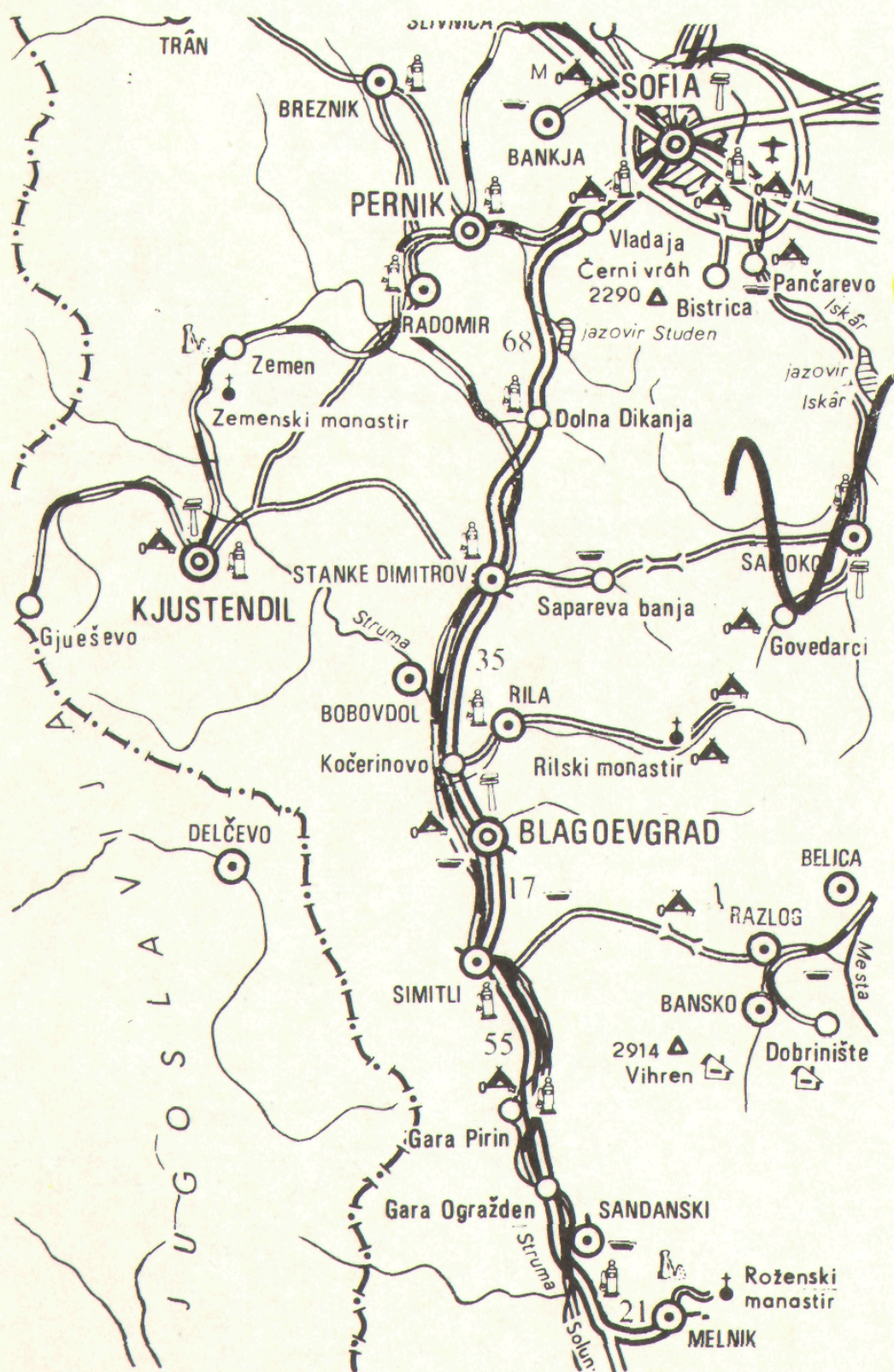
## SOFIA-SAMOKOV-BOROVETS (72 km)

After you have got acquainted with the capital of the country, this route will enable you to see one of the best-known mountain resorts in Bulgaria – Borovets. On your way to the resort you will pass through areas of great scenic beauty, past the Pancharevo and Passarel Lakes, past the Isker Dam and through the old town of Samokov, well-known in the past as an ore-mining centre but also featuring a Metropolitan Church and the Turkish Bairakli mosque. A side road from Samokov will bring you to the resort of Malyovitsa.



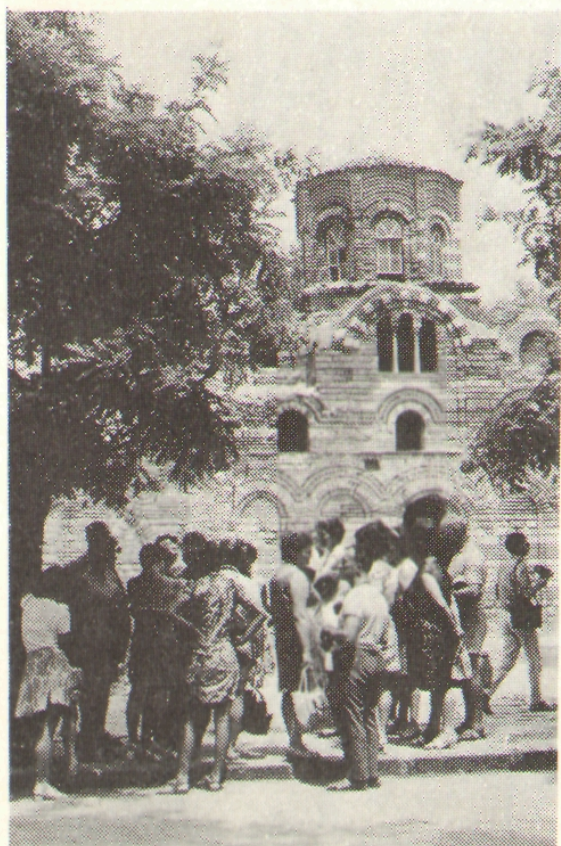
## SOFIA-RILA MONASTERY-MELNIK (181 km)

The route makes it possible for you to see the Rila Monastery, the towns of Stanké Dimitrov, Sandanski, Blagoevgrad and the picturesque little town of Melnik with the famous earth pyramids near it. The road is asphalted.



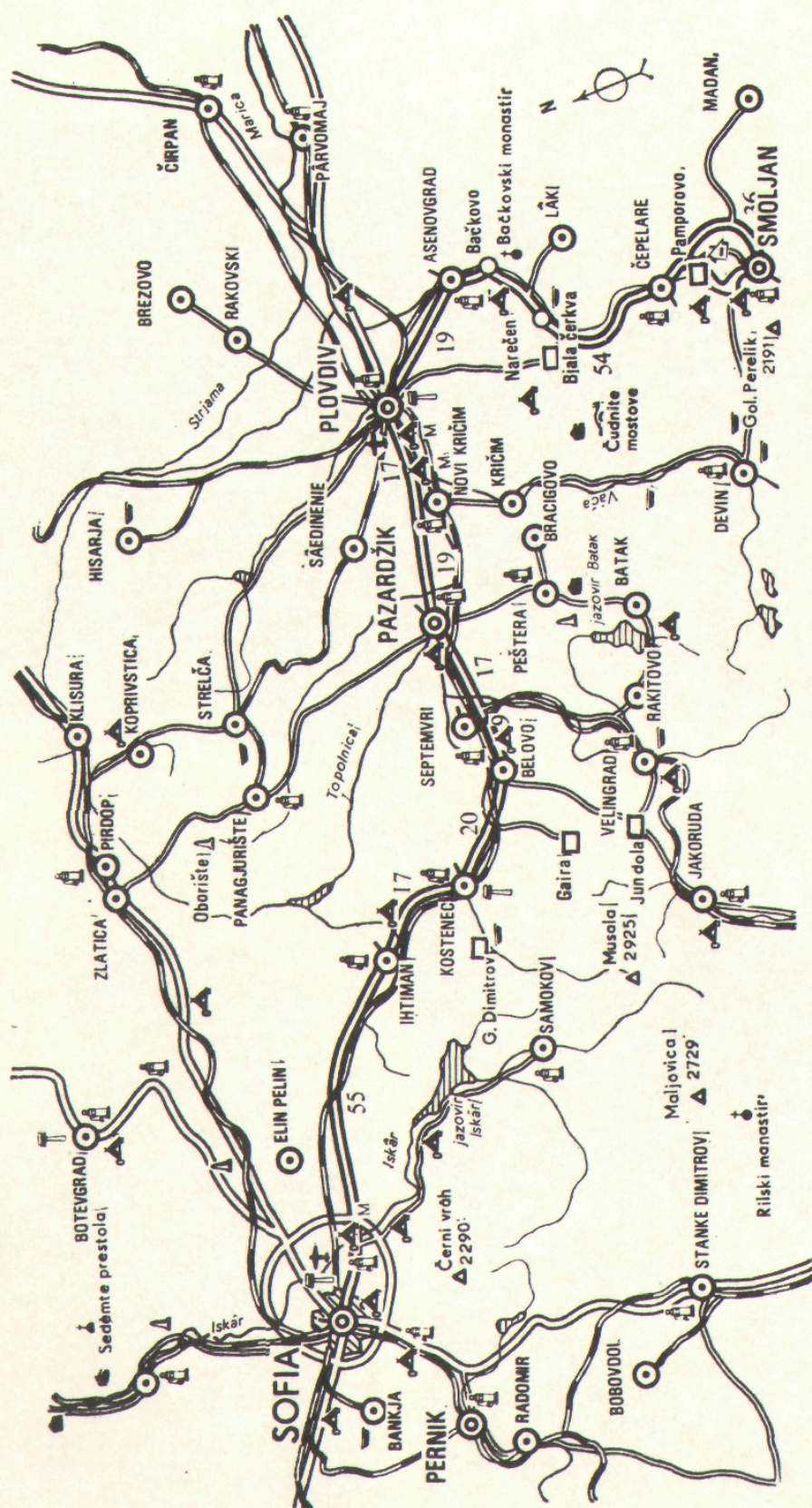
## **SOFIA-KARLOVO-KAZANLUK-MOUNT STOLETOV-SLIVEN-BOURGAS-SLUNCHEV BRYAG (398 km)**

The route takes you through the sub-Balkan valley and the famous Valley of Roses to the sea. On your way you will see the attractive sub-Balkan towns and villages of Klissoura, Rozino, Karlovo, Sopot, Kalofer and Kazanluk. From here you can follow the road to the top of Mount Stoletov (in the north there is a side road leading to Kotel and Zheravna) and then on to Bourgas and Slunchev Bryag.



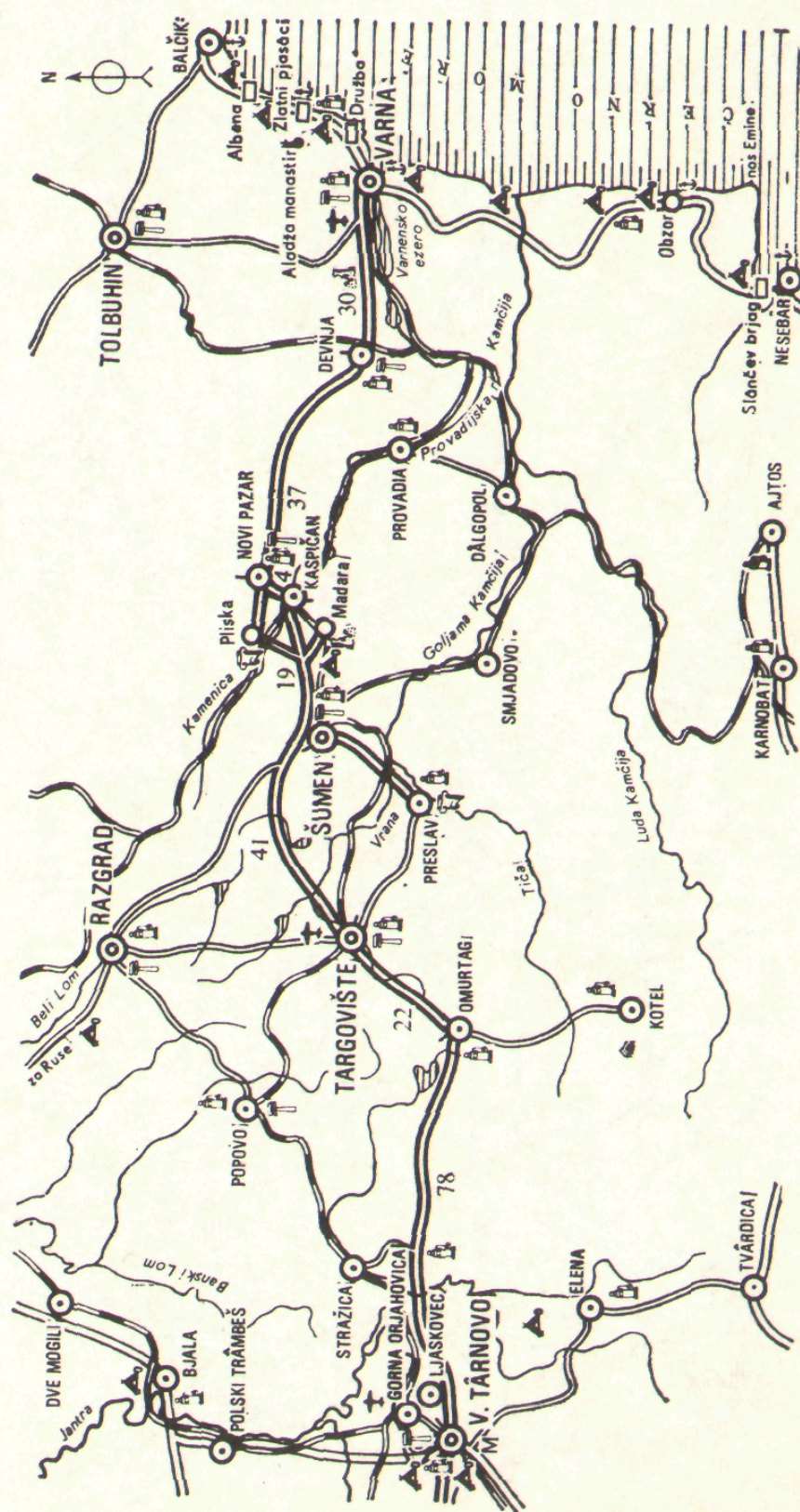
## SOFIA-PLOVDIV-ASSENOVGRAD- PAMPOROVO-SMOLYAN (250 km)

The road passes through Ihtiman, Pazardjik, the second largest Bulgarian city of Plovdiv and then turns south to pass Assen's fortress and the Bachkovo Monastery (29 km from Plovdiv), up to the modern mountain resort of Pamporovo. 15 km to the south is Smolyan, tucked away in a mountainous area of great scenic beauty. From Plovdiv you may continue via Stara Zagora to Bourgas.



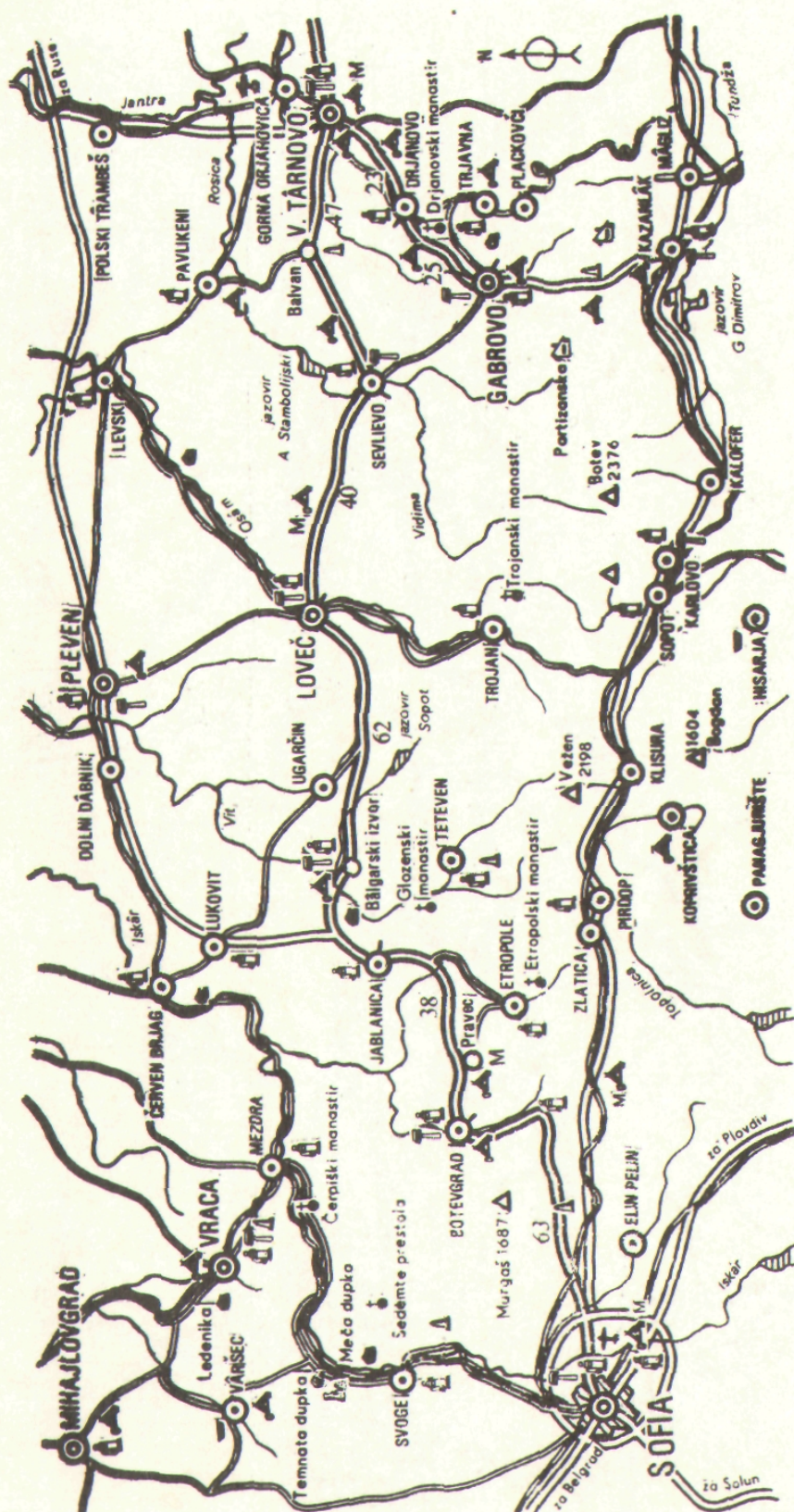
## VELIKO TURNOVO-OMOURTAG- TURGOVISHTESHOUMEN-PRESLAV- PLISKA- MADARA-NOVI PAZAR- VARNA (240 km)

After enjoying the picturesque views in Veliko Turnovo, you set out for the major administrative and economic centre of Shoumen. From here you must without fail go to *Preslav* and *Pliska*, as well as to *Madara* – a complex of old fortresses, remains of religious buildings and among them a unique rock relief, dating probably from the 9th century and representing a horseman with a lance, piercing a lioness.



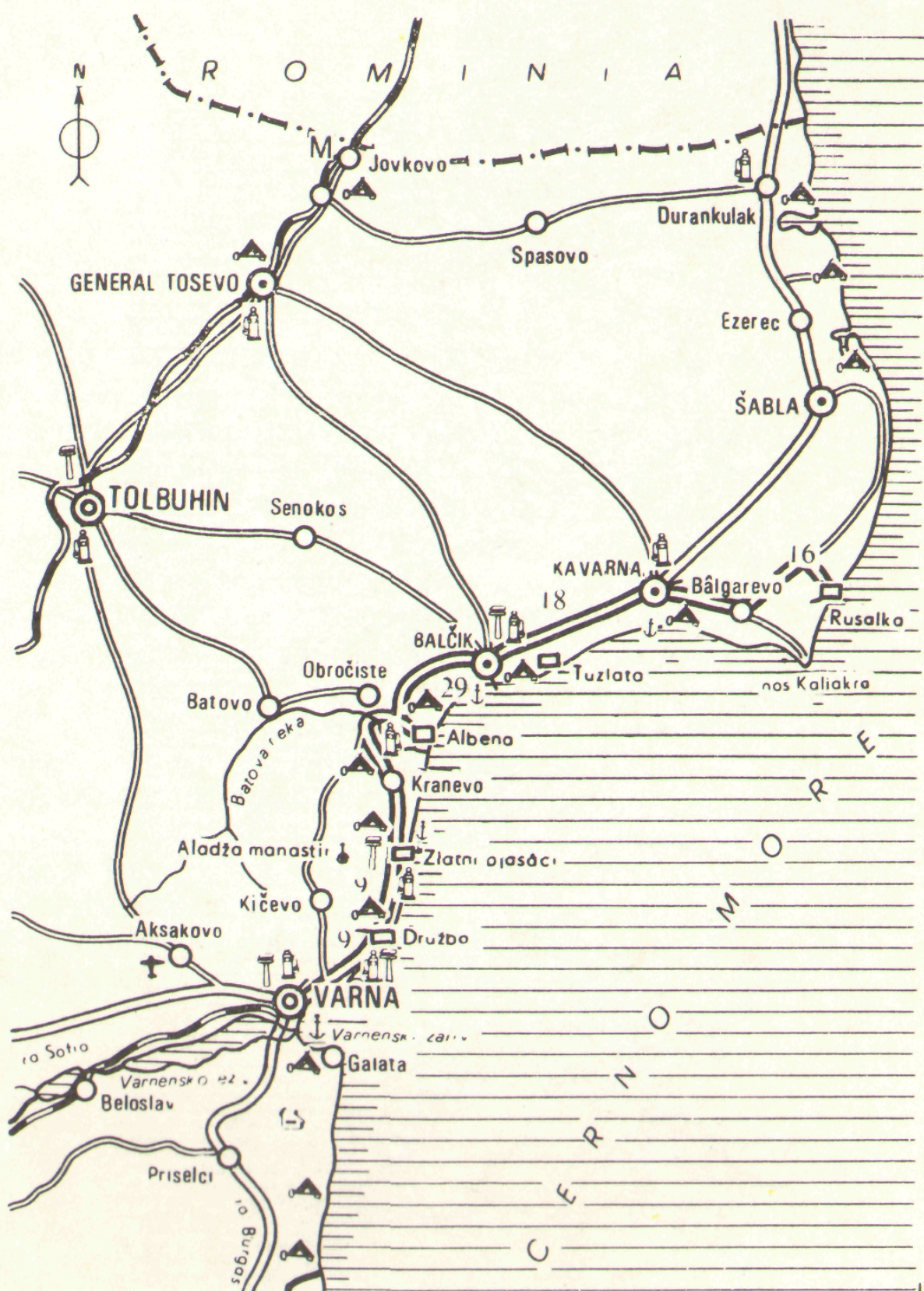
## SOFIA-LOVECH-VELIKO TURNOVO- GABROVO (260km)

From Sofia you cross the Balkan Range by the Botevgrad Pass, set out for Lovech, go across the famous covered bridge, the work of the Bulgarian master-builder Nikola Fichev. Gabrovo was known in the past as Bulgaria's Manchester. The historical reservations and museum villages Bozhentsi and Etur lie nearby. From here one can set out for Mount Stoletov and the Liberty Monument. Further on you come to Veliko Turnovo, the capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom.



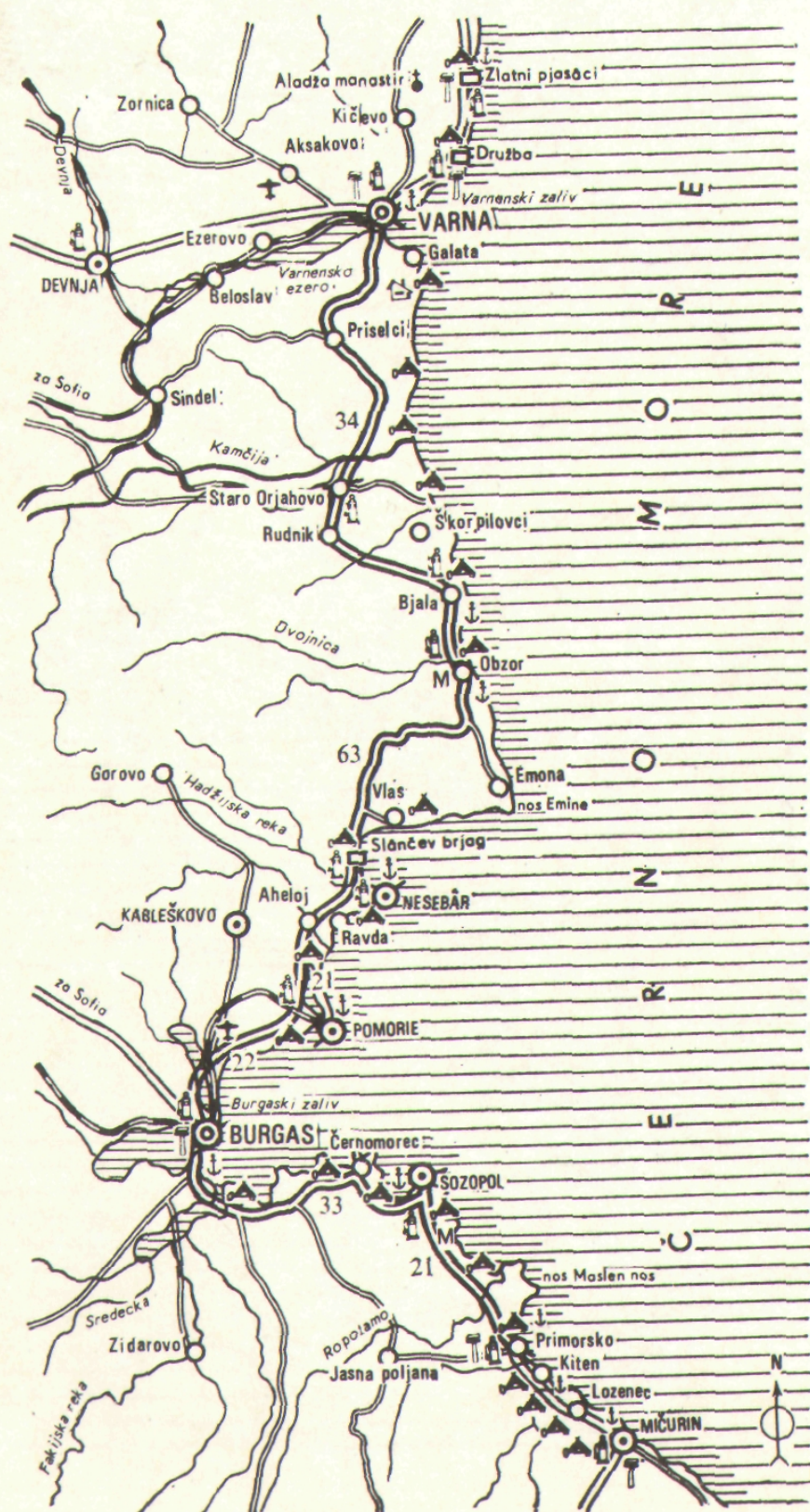
## VARNA-DROUZHBA-ZLATNI PYASSATSI- ALBENA-ROUSSALKA (80 km)

This route, in addition to the wonderful view of the sea, will enable you to see a number of historical and cultural monuments in Varna, Balchik and Kavarna, plus several modern seaside resorts.



## VARNA-SLUNCHEV BRYAG- BOURGAS- SOZOPOL-PRIMORSKO (190 km)

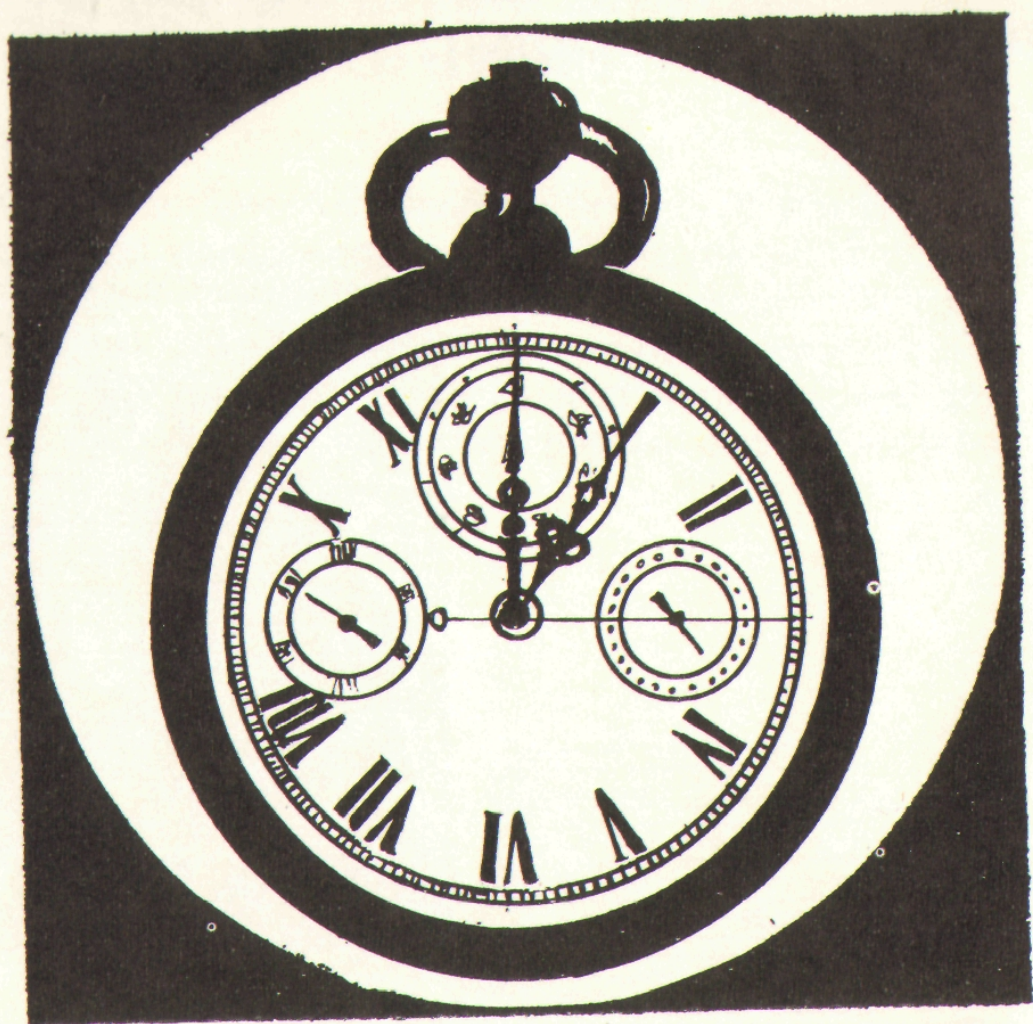
From Varna, head for Slunchev Bryag and you will pass through several small resorts, such as Byala, the estuary of the Kamchiya River, Obzor, Banya, and further on, after Slunchev Bryag, you will arrive at the old little town of Nessebur. Then on to Pomorié, Bourgas and Sozopol (ancient Apollonia), and after that — Primorsko, which has become popular through the International Youth Resort Complex.



## SOFIA-BOTEVGRAD-VRATSA-MIHAILOVGRAD- BELOGRADCHIK-VIDIN (215 km)



This route gives you yet another opportunity – to pass through the Isker Gorge by taking the road through Svogé and continuing from Mezdra to Vratsa (instead of going via Botevgrad). This variant will enable you, with a slight turning along a side-road at Elisseina (about 9 km), to see the picturesque Sedemté Prestola (Seven Thrones) Monastery, and a little further on to Mezdra – the Cherepish Monastery, too. Near Vratsa is the well-known *Ledenika Cave*, which has been modernized and made accessible for tourists. Further on, you arrive at the centre of the September 1923 Uprising, the first anti-fascist uprising in the world: Mihailovgrad, which is rapidly developing and assuming the aspect of a modern town. Then on to Belogradchik and the famous Belogradchik Rocks. A side-road from Dimovo will take you to the Rabisha Cave with its rock paintings dating from the Bronze Age. The terminal point of this route is Vidin, which was known in Roman times as Bononia and in the Middle Ages as Bdin. Nearby, the fortress walls and the bastion of the *Baba Vida Fortress* have been preserved to this day.



TIME-SAVING TIPS

*Dear colleague and friend,*

*You will be surprised. For my summer vacation I did not take the usual road to 'my' favourite Pyrenees, but to the Black Sea again.*

*Do you remember my studies in connection with the relations between the Bogomils and the Cathari from Southern France? Thanks to them I discovered Bulgaria. When I came back home I talked so much about this country and its remarkable achievements that my husband decided he wanted to come, too...*

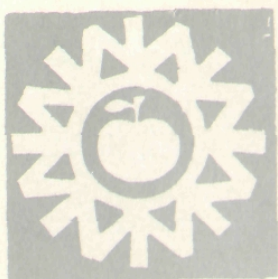
**CARMEN ENECHE**  
*Journalist, France*



## **WHY COME TO BULGARIA?**

You have probably been to other interesting places with rich traditions in the field of international tourism. But we do not doubt that after visiting Bulgaria, you, too, will join the hundreds of thousands of foreign tourists who have come, seen and been conquered by it. In fact, Bulgaria won fame as a country of international tourism only very recently and the number of foreign tourists who visit it has grown with every passing year to reach the current figure of more than 2.6 million. The only explanation for this rapidly growing popularity is the rare combination of civilized pleasures and scenic beauty, of the seaside and mountain resorts and the unique historical and cultural monuments, some of which date back more than 40,000 years. In Bulgaria there are more than 500 mineral springs and 2,000 caves, among which is also the Rabisha Cave, on whose walls one can see paintings made by primitive man in the Bronze Age. The original Bulgarian culture is well represented at Pliska and Preslav, Boyana and the Rila Monastery, Turnovo and Koprivshtitsa, Plovdiv and Karlövo, Elena and Zheravna.





## WHICH SEASON TO CHOOSE

Naturally, if you have come for the sea, you have to choose the months of July and August, which are the hottest of the year. But this does not mean that a holiday on the seaside is not pleasant in June and September. This period is also the best for a holiday in the mountains, and if you want to see the famous Valley of Roses, you'd be advised to go there between the beginning of May and the middle of June. The autumn days of September and early October are vibrant with colour; the sun is more gentle and fruit is abundant. For the lovers of winter sports during the months from November to April there are ski runs in the best-known mountain resorts: Borovets, Pampovo, Malyovitsa and Aleko. So come in any season of the year!



## FRONTIER CHECK POINTS

They are open day and night at all points of entry – on land, by sea and air, connecting the country with the rest of the world. On the Bulgaro-Yugoslav border you have the points of *Kalotina* – on the Belgrade-Sofia-Plovdiv-Istanbul highway; *Dragoman* – on the Belgrade-Sofia-Istanbul railway line; *Gyueshevo* – on the highway Skopje-Kyustendil-Sofia; *Stanke Lissichkovo* – on the road Štip-Delchevo-Blagoevgrad; *Zlatarevo* – on the highway Stroumitsa-Petrich-Sofia; *Vrushka Chouka* – on the highway Belgrade-Zaichar-Koula.

On the Bulgaro-Greek border: *Koulata* – on the E-20 highway Salonica-Sofia-Roussé-Bucharest-Moscow.



On the Bulgaro-Turkish border: *Kapitan Andreyevo* – on the E-5 highway Calcutta-Istanbul-Sofia-Belgrade-Paris-London; *Svilengrad* – on the railway line Istanbul – Sofia – Belgrade – Frankfurt on Main; *Malko Turnovo* – on the E-95 highway Istanbul-Varna-Constanta.

On the Bulgaro-Romanian border: *Roussé* – on the Moscow-Kiev-Bucharest-Roussé-Sofia railway line and the E-97 highway Roussé-Stara Zagora-Komotini; *Kardam* – on the Constanta-Tolbukhin –Varna highway; *Dourankoulak* – on the E-95 highway Constanta-Mangalia-Balchik-Varna; *Silistra* – on the Danube.



## VISAS AND PASSPORTS

VISA-FREE is the stay in Bulgaria of citizens of countries with which the People's Republic of Bulgaria has signed agreements: AUSTRIA, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DENMARK, MAURITANIA, MONGOLIA, NORWAY, POLAND, ROMANIA, the SOVIET UNION, SWEDEN, TUNISIA and YUGOSLAVIA.

VISA-FREE is the entry into Bulgaria of all tourists, citizens of different countries in the world, who own vouchers for tourist services in Bulgaria.

Vouchers for tourist services can be bought right here, at the frontier point of entry.

*Transit passengers* through the territory of Bulgaria, who are citizens of countries with which the People's Republic of Bulgaria has not concluded agreements for visa-free travel should have a transit visa. If they wish to remain in Bulgaria for more than 48 hours right here, at the frontier point



## **CUSTOMS FORMALITIES**

Customs formalities have been cut down to a minimum to facilitate the travel of tourists. Duty-free are all personal effects, foodstuffs, drinks and tobacco which the traveller will need during his trip. Objects for personal use but of greater value, such as boats for water sports, caravans, tents, tape-recorders, transistor radios, photo and film cameras, sporting guns, motorcycles, etc., are free of import duty, but are treated as temporarily imported and the visitor must take them with him when he leaves. Foreign tourists can also export duty-free objects purchased in the country to a total value of 50 leva. Objects of local origin, purchased with regularly exchanged foreign currency, may be exported duty-free even when their value exceeds 50 leva, provided they are not intended for commerce. Travellers can also export foodstuffs, necessary for the personal needs of the traveller during his trip, as well as 1 litre of bottled spirits, 2 litres of wine, 250 cigarettes or 250 g of tobacco.



## **CURRENCY EXCHANGE**

The import of foreign currency is free and unrestricted. No declaration is needed for its import and export. In Bulgaria foreign currency can be exchanged freely and without restric-

tions at the tourist, information and exchange bureaux of Balkantourist in the larger hotels and restaurants, as well as at the exchange bureaux of the Bulgarian National Bank at rates fixed by the Bulgarian National Bank. Unexchanged foreign currency may be exported freely.

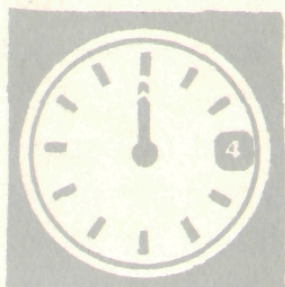
### *Currency Rates*

100 Austrian schillings	leva	5,27
1 English pound sterling	leva	1,75
100 Belgian francs	leva	2,47
100 marks GDR	leva	27,50
100 marks GFR	leva	37,70
100 Danish kronen	leva	15,96
100 Spanish pesetas	leva	1,43
1,000 Italian lire	leva	1,14
1 Canadian dollar	leva	0,98
100 Polish zloti	leva	4,56
100 Romanian lei	leva	9,40
1 Soviet rouble	leva	0,88
100 French francs	leva	20,62
100 Hungarian forints	leva	5,96
100 Dutch florins	leva	35,62
100 Czech kronen	leva	8,80
100 Swedish kronen	leva	21,92
100 Swiss francs	leva	38,76
1 US dollar	leva	0 96
100 Yugoslav dinars	leva	5,13



### **BULGARIAN MONEY**

The basic monetary unit in Bulgaria is the *lev*, which consists of 100 *stotinki*. In circulation are banknotes of 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 leva as well as coins of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 stotinki and of 1 and 2 leva. The import and export of Bulgarian money is *forbidden*. Bulgarian money obtained through the exchange of foreign currency can be spent only in the country. Bulgarian money, obtained in this way and not spent in the country can be re-exchanged and the original currency exported. In this case it is necessary to present the slip certifying the origin of the Bulgarian money at the frontier check point.



## WORKING HOURS AND OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS

Eastern European time is in force in Bulgaria. When it is 12 a.m. in Sofia, in Belgrade, Budapest, Vienna, Warsaw, Prague Paris and Rome it is 11 a.m., in London – 10 a.m., in Washington and Ottawa – 5 a.m., and in Moscow – 1 p.m. Institutions work usually from 8.00 to 12.00 a.m. and from 1.00 to 5.00 p.m. Official holidays are: January 1 – New Year, May 1 and 2 – Labour Day, May 24 – Day of Bulgarian Education and Culture and of Slav Letters, September 9 and 10 – Freedom Day, and November 7 – the Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.



## TOURIST ORGANIZATIONS

*Balkantourist* – State Economic Trust for home and international tourism under the Committee for Recreation and Tourism in Bulgaria, Sofia, 37, Dondoukov Blvd, tel. 88-44-30 and 88-41-77. It offers all kinds of tourist services. It has a wide network of hotels of different classes, motels, camp sites, private lodgings, restaurants, night clubs and places of entertainment, auto transport and tourist ships. It exchanges foreign currency, organizes excursions in the country and abroad, organizes group or individual holidays in the popular Black Sea resorts of Zlatni Pyassatsi, Drouzhba, Slunchev Bryag and Albena, as well as at the mountain resorts of Borovets, Pamporovo and Aleko; organizes the holding of international meetings, conferences, symposia and congresses by placing at their disposal halls, technical equipment, qualified staff, etc.; supplies guides and settles all formalities in connection with passports and other documents.



## *Bureaux of the National Tourist Information Service*

Sofia, 37 Dondukov Blvd 88-06-55  
Plovdiv, 39 Vassil Kolarov St. 2-48-71  
Varna, 1 Moussala Square 2-28-03  
Bourgas, 1 Slivnitsa St. 4-55-50  
Veliko Turnovo, Velchova Zavera Sq. 2-14-45  
Pleven, 2 S. Alexiev St. 20-95  
Tolbukhin, 1 V. Kolarov St. 23-16  
Haskovo, Aida Hotel 50-75

## *Balkantourist Bureaux*

Sofia, 37 Dondukov Blvd 87-44-81  
Plovdiv, 35 V. Kolarov St. 2-25-60  
Varna, 3 Moussala St. 2-26-50  
Bourgas, 2 First of May St. 4-55-53  
Veliko Turnovo, 1 V. Levski St. 2-02-36  
Roussé, 1 R. Daskalov St. 2-24-06  
Zlatni Pyassatsi 6-52-27  
Slunchev Bryag 488  
Drouzhba 6-13-01

Information and details can be obtained at the agencies of the Committee for Tourism.

*SHIPKA* Agency for Travel and Tourism at the Union of Bulgarian Motorists, Sofia, 6 Sveta Sofia St., tel. 87-88-01: runs camp sites and offers all kinds of tourist services to foreign motorists and other guests – reservations, organization of excursions, car hire, currency exchange, sale of vouchers for gasoline and oils, route maps, badges, etc.

*PIRIN* Tourist Bureau at the Central Council of the Bulgarian Hikers' Union, Sofia, 8 Lenin Square, tel. 87-05-79. Telex: Sofia 357. Runs its own resort on the Black Sea – the Kamchiya Resort Complex, as well as resorts on all Bulgarian mountains and in many towns. Organizes excursions along the Black Sea coast and to various parts of the country.

*ORBITA* Bureau for International Youth Tourism – Sofia, 76 Anton Ivanov Blvd. tel. 65-29-52. Cables: Orbitur; Telex – 22381 Orbita. Runs the well-known International Resort Complex of Primorsko as well as certain places in Varna. The bureau organizes excursions all over the country.

Agencies: Pleven, 180 G. Dimitrov St., in Kailuka Hotel; Varna, 25 V. Kolarov St., Orbita Hotel.

*COOPTOURIST* – enterprise for home and international tourism at the Central Cooperative Union in Bulgaria. Sofia, 13 Paris St., tel. 87-09-47. Telex 433. Organizes summer holidays and excursions in the country and abroad for members of



cooperatives from all countries. It has at its disposal excellent camp sites for motorists on the Black Sea coast.

Union of Bulgarian Journalists, Sofia, 4 Graf Ignatiev St., tel. 87-32-27. As representative of the International Organization of Journalists, it administers the International Journalists' House near Varna, close to the Zlatni Pyassatsi resort. Tel. 6-51-18.

RILA *International Rail Transport Bureau*, Sofia, 5 Gurko St., tel. 87-07-77.

*International Bus Lines Bureau*, Sofia, 42 Hristo Mihailov St., tel. 52-50-04.

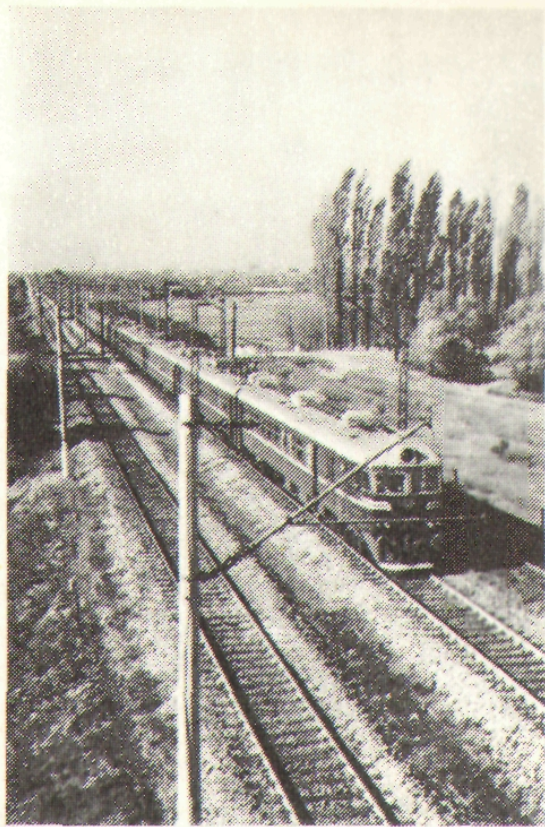


## HOW TO GET TO BULGARIA

*Balkan Bulgarian Airlines* offer regular flights to and from: Algiers, Amsterdam, Athens, Baghdad, Beirut, Berlin, Brussels, Budapest, Warsaw, Vienna, Damascus, Istanbul, Casablanca, Cairo, Copenhagen, London, Moscow, Nicosia, Paris, Prague, Rome, Stockholm, Tunis, Frankfurt on Main, Khartoum and Zurich. The company has business contacts with the foreign airlines Aeroflot, AUA (Austria), BEA (Great Britain), JAT (Yugoslavia), LOT (Poland), Interflug (GDR), Lufthansa (GFR), MALEV (Hungary), TAROM (Romania), CSA (Czechoslovakia), Air France (France) and SAS (Scandinavian Airlines). During the holiday season there are direct charter flights between the Black Sea resorts and almost all big cities and capitals of Europe and the Near East.†

Those who prefer *rail transport* also have a wide choice of express trains, maintaining regular links between Bulgaria and the rest of Europe. Among these are: *Orient-Express*: London-Paris-Lausanne-Milan-Trieste-Zagreb-Belgrade-Sofia-Istanbul; *Istanbul Express*: Munich-Salzburg-Zagreb-Belgrade-Sofia-Istanbul; *Danube Express*: Sofia-Bucharest-Kishinev-Kiev-





Moscow; *Polonia Express*: Warsaw-Budapest-Sofia-Istanbul; *Pannonia Express*: Sofia-Belgrade-Budapest-Prague-Berlin; *Nord-Orient Express* (from June to September): Varna-Bourgas-Budapest-Prague-Warsaw; *Bulgaria Express*: Sofia-Bucharest-Ungeni-Kishinev-Moscow (from May to October); *Carpathian Express*: Sofia-Bucharest-Lvov-Przemisl-Warsaw; Sofia-Koulata-Salonica-Athens.

Certain *long-distance coach routes* passing through Bulgaria, can also be used: Kiev-Varna, London-Sofia-Bombay, Brussels-Munich-Sofia-Istanbul, Milan-Belgrade-Sofia-Istanbul, Munich-Sofia-Beirut, Athens-Sofia, Belgrade-Nis-Sofia, Ohrid-Skopié-Sofia.

Motorists can reach Sofia most conveniently along the E-5N International Highway (London-Culcutta), along the E-20 Highway (Moscow-Salonica-Sofia) and the E-95 Highway (Constanta-Varna-Bourgas).



## POST, TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONES

In all Bulgarian towns there are postal, telegraph and telephone services maintaining connections with all parts of the world. There are post offices also in the big hotels in Sofia: *Sofia, Pliska, Balkan, Rila and Bulgaria*.

The different kinds of postal services cost as follows: an open letter or postcard – 1 stotinka, a closed letter within the precinct of the town – 1 stotinka, for another town – 2 stotinki. Air mail: to a basic fee of 0.13 leva you add: for Japan 0.23 leva, USA – 0.16 leva, Egypt, Iraq, Sudan, Jordan – 0.09 leva, Italy, France, Britain, GFR, Holland, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland – 0.12 leva per 20 g; for USSR (European part) – 0.12 leva, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, GDR and Albania – 0.06 leva per 20 g, Cuba – 0.15 leva, USSR (Asian part) – 0.12 leva per 5 g.

Telegrammes within the country are taxed 15 stotinki per word for up to 10 words and 0.14 leva for every succeeding word.

Telephone calls between towns lasting up to 3 minutes are taxed from 9 to 54 stotinki, depending on the distance. Between 8.00 p.m. and 7.00 a.m. charges are reduced by 50 per cent.

### IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

	Sofia	Plovdiv	Varna	Bourgas	Roussé
First aid	150	150	15	170	150
Militia	166	2-22-11	2-52-11	4-26-84	21-51
International calls	123	121	11	121	121
BALKAN	87-75-73	2-55-64	3-10 31	4-29-00	20-31
International Airlines	88-44-33	2-20-03	2-29-48	4-56-05	2-41-61
Airport	45-11-21	2-59-82	4-18-11	4-26-64	2-50-54
Bulstrad	8-51-91	—	2-23-55	4-42-66	2-58 86
Road Aid servis	146	2-50-65	8-00-02	146	142



## HOTELS

At your disposal is a wide network of hotels all over the country – in its interior, as well as on the Black Sea coast. The conveniences, services, and all other amenities which they offer meet the standards adopted in international tourism.

To reserve places during the tourist season in the resort complexes or towns, your telegramme must be accompanied without fail by a prepaid answer. Written reservations should also have a prepaid reply.

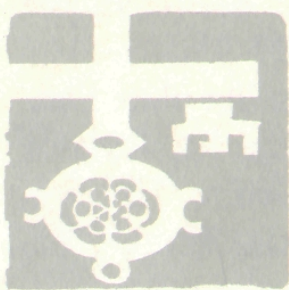
Depending on the class of the hotel, the number of beds per room, etc., prices per bed range from 4 to 30 leva. Children between the ages of 2 and 12 pay 50 per cent of these prices if they occupy an additional bed in the room of their parents. For food they also pay 50 per cent of the price for adults. For children up to 7 who do not occupy a separate bed, no charge is made.





0,18 lev – Ière et IIème catégories.

– 0,10 lev par nuitée dans



un hôtel de IIIème catégorie, motel, logement privé et bungalow.

– 0,05 lev par nuitée dans un camping.

Montant des assurances: accident Ier groupe – 4 000 leva; IIe groupe – 3 000 leva; IIIe groupe – 2 000 leva; IVe groupe – 1 000 leva. Vol de bagages: Ier groupe – 500

leva; IIe groupe – 400 leva; IIIe groupe – 300 leva; IVe groupe – 200 leva. Paiement en devises respectives, suivant le cours officiel de la Banque nationale de Bulgarie pour les paiements non commerciaux.

Pour tous les hôtels de Sofia, de l'intérieur du pays, des stations de montagne ou maritimes, les réservations sont faites directement à l'hôtel ou bien par l'intermédiaire du service des réservations auprès de L'Entreprise économique d'Etat, *Balkantouriste*, tél.: 88-56-54 ou 88-56-55.

Pour les hôtels au Complexe touristique Slantchev Briag, tél.: 22-07 ou 24-88, et depuis Sofia – 056-97.

Pour les hôtels dans les limites du Complexe touristi-

que Bourgas, tél.: 4-72-75, et de Sofia — 056-4-72-75.

Pour tous les services supplémentaires, tels que le repassage, blanchissage, nettoyage à sec, repas servis dans la chambre, etc., on paie suivant le tarif établi. Les prix des chambres au rez-de-

chaussée et avec bain à l'étage sont moins élevés.

Pour la période du 15 novembre au 30 avril, les prix des hôtels VARNA, à Varna, PRIMORETS, à Bourgas, IANTRA, à Véliko Tirnovo, VEREIA, à Stara Zagora, etc. sont réduits.

## LOGEMENTS CHEZ L'HABITANT

A défaut de chambres libres à l'hôtel, vous pourriez vous faire installer chez l'habitant. L'ambiance et le confort en dépendent de la catégorie. La première catégorie propose une chambre meublée à un ou à deux lits, W.C. privé, chauffage. Les logements privés de catégorie luxe offrent un hall, poste de T.S.F., téléviseur, etc. Pour la réservation de logements privés, adressez-vous aux bureaux touristiques suivants:

SOFIA-2, bd. Dondoukov, tél.: 87-58-29, 87-44-81

PLOVDIV-5, bd. Chr. Botev (la gare) — tél.: 2-65-69; par Sofia — 032-2-65-69

VARNA — pl. Slaveikov (la gare) — tél.: 2-22-06; par Sofia

— 052-2-22-06

BOURGAS — rue K.Fotinov (la gare) — tél.: 4-27-27; par Sofia — 056-4-27-27.

Les prix des lits chez l'habitant varient pour les villes de Sofia, Varna, Véliko Tirnovo, Sozopol, Baltchik, Hissar, Velingrad et Pomorié, entre 8.30 leva et 1.90 leva suivant la catégorie. Pour les autres localités, les prix varient entre 8.80 et 1.90 leva.

Les prix des lits dans les hôtels des complexes de villégiature sur le littoral de la mer Noire varient de 29 à 9.60 leva. Du 16 au 30 septembre, et du 1er au 15 juin, les prix sont réduits de 25%, et hors-saison, du 1er octobre au 31 mai — de 40%.

# HÔTELS DE BALKANTOURISTE

## À Sofia

Nom de l'hôtel	catégorie	lits	places au restaurant	Adresse	téléphone
1	2	3		5	6
Grand Hôtel Sofia	luxe rest.	200	369	pl. Narodno sobranie	87-88-21
Parc-Hôtel Moskva	luxe rest.	755			45-51-21
Balkan	I rest.	163	252	Pl. Lénine	87-65-43
Balgaria	I rest.	85	106	4, bd. Rouski	87-19-77
Hémus	I rest.	248	455	31, bd. Guéorgui Traïkov	66-14-15
Pliska	I rest.	215	420	bd. Lénine	72-37-21
Slavia	I rest.	76	141	Hippodrouma	52-55-51
Chtastlivetsa	I rest.	103	201	Vitocha	66-50-24
Kopitoto	I rest.	26	50	Vitocha	57-12-96
Luline	I rest.	19	38	Bankia	26-91-68
Serdica	I rest.	169	379	pl. V. Levski	44-34-11
Moskva	I rest.	196	345	3, rue Triaditsa	87-24-48
Slavianska Besséda	I rest.	—	—	127, rue Rakovska	88-36-91

## Hors de Sofia

Edelweiss	I rest.	103	192	Borovets	49
Bor	I rest.	51	94	Borovets	53
Koprivchtitsa	I rest.	—	—	Koprivchtitsa	82-38-78
Volga	II rest.	89	204	Blagoevgrad	38-14
Pautalia	I rest.	—	—	Kustendil	20-48
Balkantouriste	III rest.	—	—	Monastère de Rila	
Trimontium	I rest.	175	368	Plovdiv, 2, Cap. Raïtcho	2-55-61
Maritsa	I rest.	168	292	Plovdiv	5-27-35
Balgaria	I rest.	83	136	Plovdiv	2-60-64
Orphée	I rest.	89	180	Pamporovo	10
Snéjanka	I rest.	48	120	Pamporovo	7
Panorama	I rest.	85	170	Pamporovo	9
Sokolitsa	I rest.	97	194	Smolian	10
Véréia	I rest.	84	167	Stara Zagora	28-58
Zdravets	I rest.	121	200	Vélingrad	26-28
Trakia	I rest.	113	224	Pazardjik	60-06
Sliven	I rest.	149	280	Sliven	69-11
Rosova Dolina	I rest.	34	102	Karlovo	952-400
Rosa	I rest.	65	136	Kazanlik	23-03
Aïda	I rest.	73	145	Haskovo	50-33
Bononia	I rest.	50	110	Vidine	30-31

1	2	3	4	5	6
Mémus	I rest.	97	194	Vratsa	35-81
Balkan	III rest.	38	97	Vratsa	14-69
Iantra	I rest.	81	171	Véliko Tîrnovo	2-03-01
Etar	I rest.	120	216	Véliko Tîrnovo	2-35-51
Balkan	I rest.	69	126	Gabrovo	26-31
Chipka	III rest.	25	68	Vrakh «Stolétov»	28-18
Ogosta	I rest.	65	117	Mikhaïlovgrad	26-11
Rostov na Don	I rest.	106	205	Pleven	70-05
Kaïlaka	I rest.	91	180	Pleven	35-15
Dounav	I rest.	—	240	Roussé	2-67-19
Madara	I rest.	114	216	Choumène	—
Primorets	I rest.	126	236	Bourgas	4-41-17
Brise	I rest.	124	229	Bourgas	4-31-90
Varna	I rest.	—	181	Varna	—
Augusta	I rest.	70	145	Hissar	962-120

# TOURISTES EN VOITURE

Formalités D'arrivée pompes à essence assistance routière

La Bulgarie offre aux touristes en voiture des conditions excellentes des routes bien entretenues — pavées ou asphaltées, qui traversent des contrées et des agglomérations pittoresques. Plus de 300 pompes à essence jalonnent les routes.

En Bulgarie la circulation est à droite. Vitesse maximum — 60 km/h dans les agglomérations, et 100 km/h ailleurs.

Les touristes de la route en Bulgarie doivent présenter au point d'entrée à la frontière le permis de conduire, délivré

du pays respectif. Aucune taxe d'entrée n'est perçue pour les automobiles. Les cartes d'assurance — vertes et bleues — sont valables en Bulgarie. Pour les touristes étrangers, qui traversent le pays avec un visa de transit, seule l'assurance «responsabilité civile» est obligatoire. Au moyen de lettres de crédit, les touristes étrangers peuvent s'assurer d'avance les prestations dans les stations-service ainsi que TOURISTE et de l'Union des automobilistes bulgares vendent des bons aux points d'en-



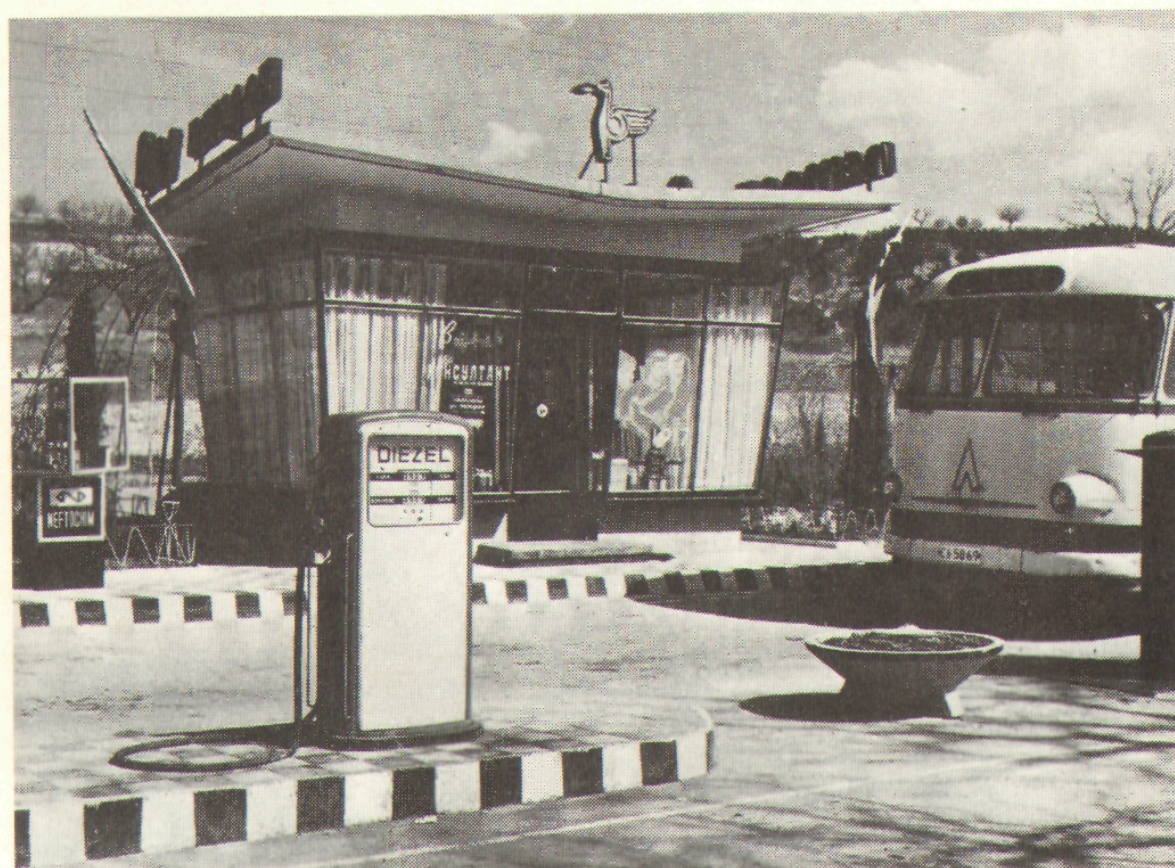


trée à la frontière avec une réduction de 12% contre devises convertibles.

Aux touristes en voiture qui voyagent individuellement, **BALKANTOURISTE** offre pour l'année 1976 des itinéraires spéciaux à prix réduits,

mettant en outre à leur disposition une quantité déterminée d'essence gratuite. Les itinéraires sont établis selon le désir des touristes ou des agences qui organisent leur voyage.

Ses postes d'essence ven-



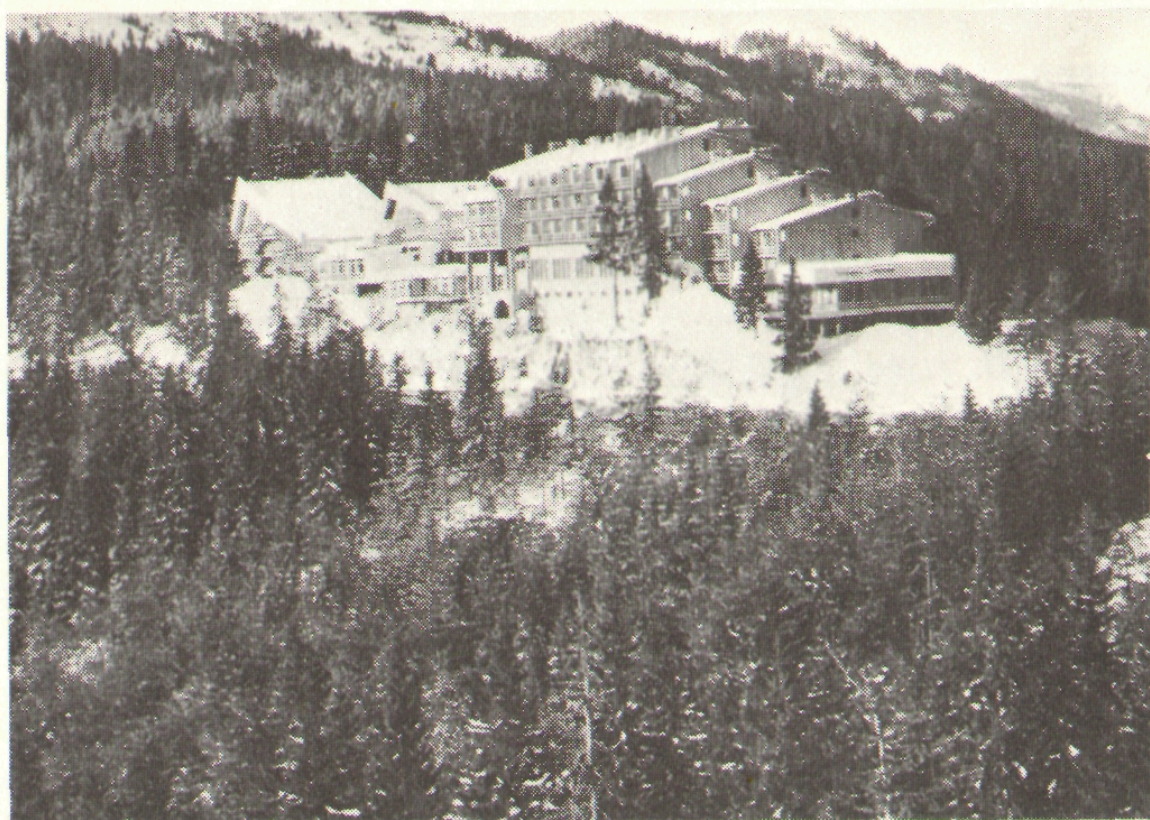
dent aussi des huiles à moteur étrangères: british petroleum, mobiloil, castrol, adgip, etc.

Les voitures de «l'Assistance routière» sillonnent les routes et sont à la disposition des automobilistes.

En cas d'accident, adressez-vous à l'entreprise d'assurance BULSTRAD, 5, rue

Dounav, Sofia, tél.: 88-53-41.

Les touristes qui voyagent sans voiture ont la possibilité de louer des automobiles avec ou sans chauffeur. Les taxes de location de voiture sans chauffeur est de 0.16 à 0.24 lev par kilomètre, selon la capacité et la puissance du véhicule.



## CAMPINGS

En même temps que les hôtels, motels et restaurants de première classe, plus de 120 campings ont été aménagés dans toutes les régions du pays, situés à proximité de sites et d'agglomérations pittoresques, de grandes routes, de lacs et de cours d'eau, de monuments historiques. Une grande partie de ces campings

se trouvent le long du littoral de la mer Noire. Ils sont répartis en trois catégories: spéciale, première et deuxième. La catégorie spéciale comprend les campings suivants qui devraient retenir l'attention des touristes: *Panorama* et *Zlatni Piassatsi* — à proximité de la villégiature Zlatni Piassatsi; *Emona*, *Slantchev*

*Briag* — près de la villégiature Slantchev Briag; *Kavatsité* — près de Sozopol et *Arkoutino* — près de l'embouchure du Ropotamo; *Perla* — au nord de Primorsko; *Bolyarski Stan* — près de Tirnovo. Ces campings disposent de restaurants, de magasins d'alimentation, de lieux de divertissement, de kiosques de souvenirs, etc.

Nous vous recommandons les campings suivants de première catégorie: *Bisser* — près de Baltchik; *Morska*

route E-5N; *Tchaïa* — au Sud de Plovdiv, sur la route E-5N; *Stoléto* — au sommet du même nom, dans la Stara Plannina, *Balkan* — près du village de Brestnitsa, dép. de Lovetch; *Svéta Gora* — près de Tirnovo; *Ribarska Hija* — près de Roussé. Ils sont situés dans des sites pittoresques, à proximité des centres touristiques. Chaque camping (ou alentour) est doté d'un restaurant, de pavillons d'alimentation, etc.

Deuxième catégorie:



*Zvezda* — près de Kavarna; *Horizont* — au Sud de l'embouchure de Kamtchia; *Smokinya* — au Sud de Sozopol; *Evropa* — près de Pomorié; *Kapitan Andrévo* — avec un motel, au point d'entrée à la frontière bulgare-turque; *Vrania* — près de Sofia, sur la route E-5N; *Bélovo* — près du village du même nom, dép. de Plovdiv; *Maritsa* — avec un motel, près de Plovdiv, sur la

*Izgrev* — au Sud de l'embouchure de Kamtchia; *Vlas* — au Nord de la villégiature Slantchev Briag; *Rilski Monastir* — à proximité du monastère de Rila, *Magoura* — près de la grotte Rabicha; *Galata* — au Sud de Varna; *Kardam* — près de la ville du même nom, à la frontière bulgare-roumaine; *Chtarkélovo Gnezdo* — au Nord du barrage Iskar, sur la route Sofia-Samokov; *Bankya*

have a reception room, toilets and running water. In their neighbourhood are shops selling foodstuffs, etc.

Naturally, these are not all the camp sites in the country and you can put up at many other well-appointed and picturesque camp sites. Prices at the camp sites are: (in leva)

	Special class	1st class	2nd class
Per person per night	0.80	0.60	0.40
Per car per night	0.80	0.60	0.40
Per caravan per night	0.80	0.60	0.40
Place for a tent	0.80		

Children up to 12 years of age get a reduction of 50 per cent on these prices.

*Motels* are situated on the E-5N, E-20, E-97, E-95 International Highways. Prices per bed in them are between 4.50 and 6 leva depending upon the class. Next to them there is usually a restaurant, shops selling foodstuffs and souvenirs, etc.

Detailed information can be obtained from the tourist organizations.

Road Aid service at the Union of Bulgarian Motorists, Sofia, tel. 146.



## GASTRONOMY, DRINKS, TOBACCO

Wherever one may be we cannot give up our habits and taste in food. Here we recommend you a few Bulgarian dishes and hope that you will never regret having tasted them.

*Kebapcheta* – grilled sausage-shaped meat balls made of minced meat with different condiments, and served with fried potatoes and fresh vegetable salad.

*Kisselo Mlyako* (Yoghourt) a unique Bulgarian dish. Try it and see for yourself. *Tarator* – soup of finely cut fresh cucumbers and yoghurt. It is served cold. *Shopska Salata* – made of cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers. Before being served, finely cut parsley and grated white cheese are added to it. *Cyuvech* (stew) made of peppers, tomatoes, egg plants, vegetable marrow, okra, onions, potatoes, green peas, parsley, etc., cooked with pieces of veal. It can also be prepared without meat. *Byurek* – made of thin flaky pastry, butter and cheese.

And here you have some popular Bulgarian drinks: *Rakiya* plum, grape, apricot, etc., brandy. *Mastika* – mastic brandy, *Cognac* – Pliska, Pomorié or Preslav (Seven Star). *White Wines*: Karlovski Misket, Riesling, Pomorié, Varna, Iskra (champagne); *Red Wines*: Gumza, Melnik, Trakia, Mavroud, Kadarka, etc.

For smokers: cigarettes Sofia, Seven's, Sluntsé, Rodopi, Trezor, Luna, Kom, Ropotamo, BT, Stewardess, Strandja, Sport, Orphei, etc.

## WHAT TO BUY IN BULGARIA?



Every new country offers many original objects and craft articles which are a temptation for tourists. Bulgaria is no exception in this respect. Here you will find elegant fur and leather ar-



ticles, fur coats, woollen knitwear, ladies' blouses with embroidery made by hand and by machine, handwoven fabrics, carpets, table cloths, dolls in national costumes, ceramic articles, wrought iron and copper articles, different souvenirs, the famous attar of rose, and many others. You will find them in all towns of the country, and souvenirs will be offered to you by many pavilions and shops in the tourist centres and on the Black Sea coast.

## **CERTAIN PRICES**

This question is surely of great interest to you. Here are some prices that will help you to orient yourselves: an airplane ticket Sofia-Varna – 13.70 leva, Sofia-Bourgas 12.50 leva; filter cigarettes – from 0.40 to 0.60 leva, a cup of coffee – 0.25 to 0.45 leva, half a kilo of butter – 2 leva, plum brandy 1 litre – 5.40 leva, cognac Pliska 1/2 litre – 6 leva; a dish of kebapcheta – from 0.70 to 1.20 leva depending upon the class of the restaurant; orangeade 0.10 leva; Coca-Cola – 0.15 leva; Schweppes – 0.15 leva; a bus ticket (city lines) – 6 stotinki, a tram ticket – 4 stotinki; a cinema ticket – 0.20 to 0.35 leva; lukanka (dry sausage) – 1 kg 5.60 to 6.60 leva; cheese 1 kg 2.50 leva; sugar – 1 kg 0.70 leva; white wine Karlovski Misket – 1.39 leva.



## **USEFUL ADDRESSES**

Union of Bulgarian Journalists, 4 Graf Ignatiev St., Sofia.  
Tel. 87-27-73

Union of Bulgarian Architects, 11 D. Polyakov St., Sofia.  
Tel. 44-39-76.

Union of Bulgarian Writers, 5 Angel Kunchev St., Sofia.  
Tel. 88-00-31.

Union of Bulgarian Composers, 2 Ivan Vazov St., Sofia. Tel.  
87-14-23

Union of Bulgarian Artists, 37 Moskovska St., Sofia. Tel.  
88-44-80.

Union of Research Workers in Bulgaria, 18 Tolbukhin St.,  
Sofia Tel. 87-44-11

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 1 7th of November St.,  
Sofia. Tel. 87-77-31

RILA – bureau for the sale of railway tickets, 5 Gurko St.,  
Sofia. Tel. 87-07-77

Bureau for services to foreigners, Balkan Hotel, Sofia. Tel.  
87-65-41

Bureau for visas and registration of foreigners, 12 Narodno  
Sobranié Square Tel. 88-13-89

Bureau Wagons-Lits Cook, Sofia, 10 Legué St., Tel.  
87-34-52.

Agency of the Austrian Airlines, Sofia, 11a Alexander  
Stamboliiski Blvd. Tel. 87-24-30, 87-87-26

INTERFLUG Agency of the GDR Airlines, Sofia, 8  
Rousski Blvd. Tel. 88-23-09

AIR FRANCE Agency, Sofia, 2 Alexander Stamboliiski  
Blvd. Tel. 87-26-86, 88-19-39

Agency of the Polish Airlines (LOT), Sofia, 27 Alexander  
Stamboliiski Blvd. Tel. 87-25-67, 88-09-19.

AEROFLOT Agency (USSR), Sofia, 2 Rousski Blvd. Tel.  
87-90-80

Agency of the Yugoslav Airlines (JAT), Sofia, 1 Levski St.  
Tel. 87-25-67, 88-04-19

Agency of the Czechoslovak Airlines (CSK), Sofia, 9  
Alexander Stamboliiski Blvd. Tel. 88-55-58.

Agency of the Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) (Sweden,  
Norway, Denmark), Sofia, 11a Alexander Stamboliiski Blvd.  
Tel. 88-37-05.

Agency of the British Airlines (BEA) (Great Britain), Sofia,  
27 Alexander Stamboliiski Blvd. Tel. 88-30-94

Agency of the Lufthansa (GFR), Sofia, 9 Alexander Stam-  
boliiski Blvd. Tel. 88-23-10 and 88-42-23.

Agency of the Hungarian Airlines (MALEV), Sofia, 26  
Alexander Stamboliiski Blvd. Tel. 87-86-07, 88-40-61.



## EMBASSIES AND LEGATIONS

Austria – 13 Russki Blvd. tel. 88-17-10 (LI)  
Tel. 52-14-67

Algerian Democratic People's Republic, 16 Slavyanska St.

Tel. 87-56-83

Arab Republic of Egypt,

91 Tsar Ivan Assen II St., tel. 44-19-57

Belgium – 43 Joliot-Curie St., tel. 70-10-02

Brazil – 27 Rousski Blvd. tel. 44-36-55

Great Britain – 65 Tolbukhin Blvd. tel. 88-53-61

Democratic Republic of Vietnam – 12 Oborishté St., tel. 44-14-95

German Democratic Republic – 1 Kapitan Andreyev St. tel. 66-14-37

German Federal Republic, 7 Henri Barbusse St., tel. 72-21-27; 72-03-82.

Greece – 68 Klement Gottwald Blvd. tel. 44-37-70

Italy – 2 Shipka St., tel. 88-17-05

Chinese People's Republic – 18 Rousski Blvd, tel. 87-87-24

Korean People's Republic, 1 L. Stanev St., tel. 72-23-60.

Cuba – 3 Marin Drinov St., tel. 44-63-61

Mongolian People's Republic – 16 Tolbukhin Blvd, tel. 87-41-85.

Polish People's Republic, 45 Khan Kroum St., tel. 88-51-66

Romanian Socialist Republic, 10 Dimiter Ployanov St., tel. 44-33-81

Syrian Arab Republic, 47 Oborishté St., tel. 44-15-85

USSR – 28 Bulgaro-Soviet Friendship Blvd. tel. 66-88-19

USA – 1 Stamboliiski Blvd., tel. 88-48-01, 88-48-05

Turkey – 28 Dimiter Ployanov St., tel. 44-10-10

Hungarian People's Republic – 57, 6th of September St., tel. 66-20-21, 66-20-22.

Finland – Lenin Complex, block 73, tel. 72-20-05, 72-02-59

France – 29 Oborishté St., tel. 44-11-71 (72), 44-17-23

Holland – 19a Denkoglou St., tel. 87-41-86

Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, 9 Vladimir Zaimov Blvd., tel. 44-62-81 (82, 83, 84), 88-08-39

Chile – 7 Volov St., 1st floor, tel. 44-36-52

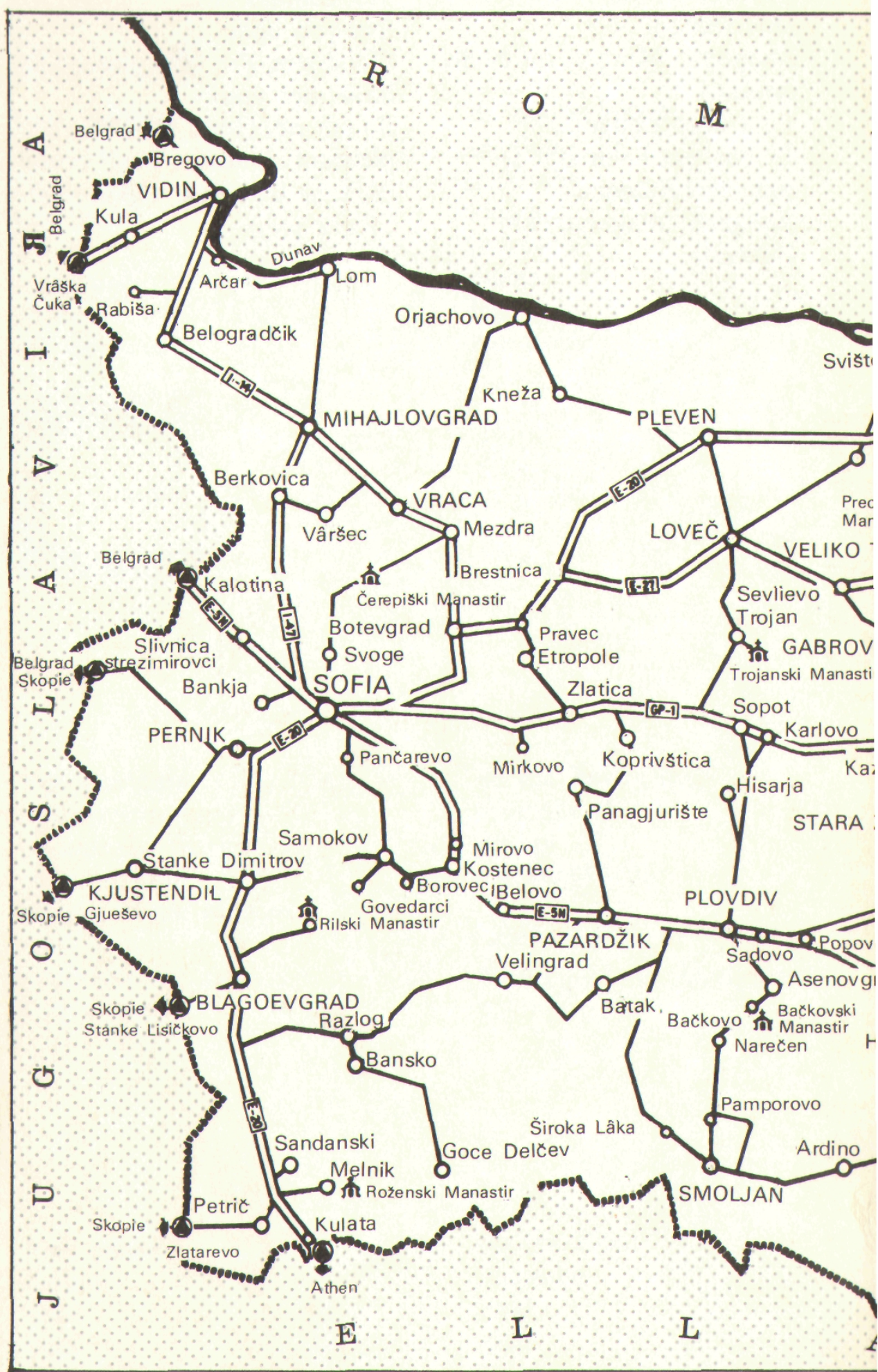
Switzerland – 33 Shipka St., tel. 44-31-98

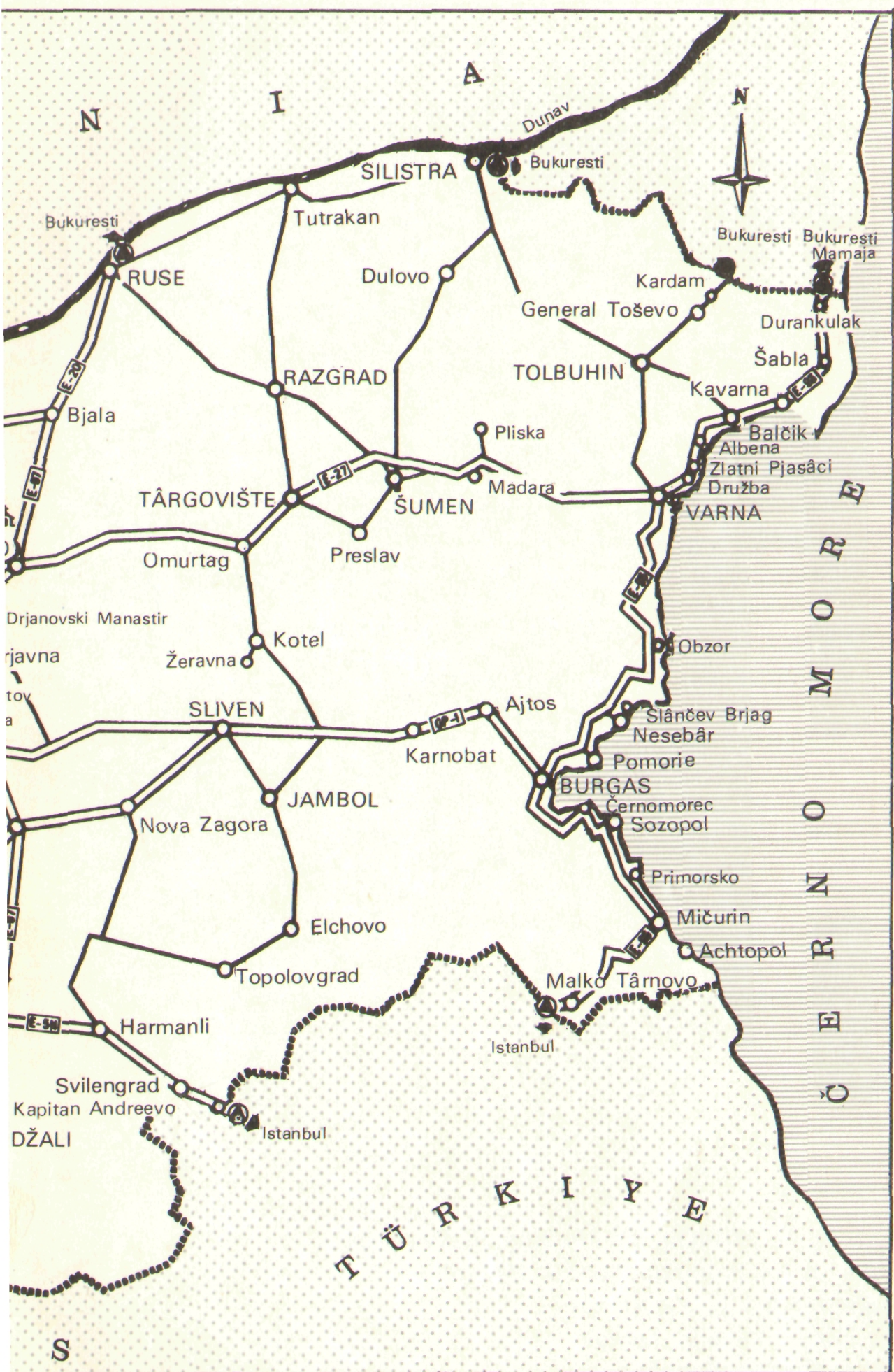
Sweden – Velchova Zavera St., tel. 66-56-84

Yugoslav Socialist Federative Republic – 3 G. G. Dezh St. Tel. 44-32-37, 44-33-82.

## **CONSULATES**

1. German Democratic Republic  
Varna, 18 Slavyanska St., tel. 2-60-86
2. Republic of Colombia  
13 Oborishté St., tel. 44-20-30
3. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
Varna, 24 Bratya Shkorpil St., tel. 2-35-46
4. Turkey  
Plovdiv, 32 N. Vaptsarov St., tel. 2-20-49
5. Turkey  
Bourgas, 32 Antim I St., tel. 4-31-45





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